

Bulgaria

A TOURIST GUIDE



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A TOURIST HANDBOOK



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For the Tourist

I. Land and People

1. Geographic Location

Bulgaria lies in Southeastern Europe or, to be more exact, it occupies the northeastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. It is bounded on the north by Rumania, on the west by Yugoslavia, on the south by Greece and Turkey. The Danube, an avenue of access to Central Europe, forms a natural boundary between Bulgaria and Rumania. On the east Bulgaria borders on the Black Sea, which connects Bulgaria with the Soviet Union and, through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, with the Mediterranean and other seas.

Bulgaria covers an area of roughly 111,000 square kilometres or 43,000 square miles.

Its strategic geographical location makes it an important international crossroads; a railway line and European Highway No 5, linking Western and Central Europe with the Near and Middle East, pass through it.

Direct railway and highway connexions with Rumania, the Soviet Union and the Baltic countries are maintained across the largest bridge spanning the Danube, built in 1954 just east of the Bulgarian town of Roussé and the Rumanian town of Giurgevo.

2. Relief

Bulgaria is a land of rare scenic beauty. Nature has indeed been bountiful, for you find here picturesque mountains, woody rolling hills, fertile plains, and lovely valleys.

Mountains

The longest mountain chain in the Balkan Peninsula, the Balkan Range, or Haemus as the ancient Greeks called it, starts at Bulgaria's western boundary (the Timok River), dividing the country into two equal halves and ending in several branches at the Black Sea. Rising in its central part is its highest peak, Mt. Botev (2,376 m.). The Balkan Range is a natural climatic barrier, protecting South Bulgaria from the cold winds coming from the north. Many rivers take their source in the Balkan Range — Ogosta, Vit, Ossum, Yantra, etc.

With their luxuriant verdure, easy access and crystal-clear and wholesome air, the Balkan Range and the towns situated along its slopes are great tourist attractions. Most popular among these are: Berkovitsa, famous for its old clock tower and aromatic raspberries and strawberries; Etropolé with its remarkable mediaeval houses; Troyan which is known not only for its pottery and pokerwork, but also for its electric and synchronous motors; Tryavna, which the Austro-Hungarian traveller Felix Kanitz called 'the Bulgarian Nuerenberg' because of its rich and beautiful architecture. Along the northern slopes of the central part of the Balkan Range, in the Yantra River valley, is situated one of Bulgaria's largest industrial centres—Gabrovo, with a population of 68,000. Veliko Turnovo, the mediaeval capital of Bulgaria (12th-14th century) with its 42,000 inhabitants is perched on the steep hills rising above the lower reaches of the Yantra. Amphitheatrically built, its houses are mirrored in the clear waters of the river, while the ruins of Tsarevets and Trapezitsa hills reveal the rich and stormy past of the town. 'Turnovo is something quite unique in its situation, the only town of its kind in Europe,' the Czech Professor Konstantin Irecek wrote almost a century ago.

South of the Balkan Range and running parallel to it are the Sredna Gora Mountains with their highest peak Bogdan (1,604 m).

The Rila Mountains, with Mount Moussala (2,925 m), the highest peak in the Balkan Peninsula, and their peer in magnificence and beauty, the Pirin Mountains with Mount Vihren (2,915 m), rise in Southwestern Bulgaria. The Rila Mountains are remarkable not only for their not easily accessible alpine peaks, but also for their crystal-clear lakes and age-old coniferous forests inhabited by fleet-footed does, stags and wild goats and, above all, for their evergreen ridges with sparkling snow-drifts which give rise to large rivers, such as the Maritsa, Isker and Mesta.

With their boldly rising ridges and forbidding cliffs, the

Pirin Mountains, lying south of and just opposite the Rila Mountains, are also alpine in character. The landscape here is indeed wonderful. Snow-drifts and azure lakes sparkle under the blue sky. Along the slopes covered with pines, fir-trees and black pines, grows the rare mountain flower — the edelweiss.

In South Bulgaria, east of the Rila and the Pirin Mountains, between the Maritsa and the Mesta Rivers and the plain along the northern shores of the Aegean, sprawl the Rhodope Mountains — the largest massif in the Balkan Peninsula. Their highest peak is Golyam Perelik (2,191 m). Covered with coniferous forests, the Rhodopes are rich in ores and give rise to many rivers — Arda, Vucha, etc.

The Rhodopes are the birthplace of the legendary musician Orpheus, whose lyre, as legend has it, could charm beasts and make trees and rocks move. Their scenic beauty was extolled by the Roman poet Ovid.

In the foothills of the eastern Rhodopes are situated the administrative and industrial centres — Haskovo, with 64,000 inhabitants, and Kurdjali, with 33,000 inhabitants. In the last decade new industrial centres, such as Madan and Roudozem, have sprung up here. Velingrad, a well-known Bulgarian spa and now an industrial centre with a population of 20,000, lies in the Western Rhodopes.

Covered with oak forests and abounding in game and ores, the low Strandja Mountains are situated in Southeastern Bulgaria.

The Vitosha, Lyulin, Ossogovo and Belassitsa mountains rise in West Bulgaria.

Plains and Valleys

Bulgaria's map would be indeed monotonous if its mountains were not separated by vast fertile plains and picturesque valleys, in which bread crops and wine grapes thrive to make people feel sated and gay.

The Danubian Plain, which occupies almost one fourth of the country's territory, borders on the Danube, the Balkan Range and the Black Sea. It is Bulgaria's granary, yielding rich crops of wheat, maize, sunflower, sugar beet, tobacco, vegetables, strawberries, grapes and other fruit. The grain and fodder crops tend to promote animal husbandry.

Larger towns and administrative district centres in the Danubian Plain are from west to east: Mihailovgrad (32,000), Vratsa (45,000), Pleven (89,000), Shoumen (68,000), Turgovishtë (23,900), Razgrad (33,400) and Tolbukhin (68,400).

The Thracian Plain, through which the Maritsa, the largest Bulgarian river flows, lies between the Sredna Gora Mountains and the Rhodopes. Long before our era this fertile southern plain was inhabited by Thracian tribes who gave it its present name. Homer called it 'the land of fertility', 'the home of fine-fleeced sheep' and of wonderful steeds which were as fleet as the wind in horse-races.

The Thracian Plain is still famous for its rich and fertile soil. It is like a real garden in which fruit trees, vines, vegetables, strawberries, rice, cotton, hemp, flax and high-quality tobacco grow.

Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second-ranking city with over 236,600 inhabitants, lies in the heart of the Thracian Plain. Sprawling around six syenite hills and along the banks of the Maritsa River, Plovdiv is one of the most interesting and attractive Bulgarian cities. Its history dates back to antiquity: it was first known as a Thracian village, by the name of Eumolpias (1000 years B. C.), which in the 5th century B. C. became the capital of the Thracian state. In 314 B. C. King Philip II of Macedon conquered the capital, re-naming it Philippopolis. Later the city was captured by the Romans who called it *Trimontium*. Plovdiv was turned many times into a battlefield on which Byzantines, Bulgarians, Crusaders and Ottomans crossed swords.

Today Plovdiv is a large industrial centre with many research institutes and various cultural establishments and monuments. The city is also famous for its international fair, which is held every year.

Three major administrative, industrial and transport centres are also situated in the Thracian Plain: Pazardjik (59,500), Stara Zagora (104, 000) and Yambol (67,900).

The Valley of Roses, where the famous Bulgarian rose attar is produced, extends between the Balkan Range and the Sredna Gora Mountains.

The western part of the Balkan Range, the Lyulin and Vitosha Mountains and the western part of the Sredna Gora Mountains surround the high Sofia Plain.

There are several beautiful small valleys along the Strouma River which takes its source from Mt. Vitosha and flows to the south, towards the Aegean. Favourably influenced by the Aegean climate, all kinds of fruit, vines, high-grade tobacco, cotton, poppies and figs grow in the valleys of Kyustendil, Blagoevgrad, Sandanski and Petrich.

3. Subsoil Wealth

Bulgaria is rich in ores and minerals. Its coal deposits amount to more than 4,500 million tons. The iron ore deposits have been estimated at over 300 million tons. Oil and gas deposits have been discovered in the Danubian Plain in recent years.

Bulgaria ranks among the richest countries in the world in manganese, lead and zinc, copper, silver, chromium and other ores. There are also uranium ore deposits.

Mineral deposits comprise rock salt, gypsum, limestone, dolomite, kaolin, asbestos, perlite, feldspar, fluorite, etc.

There are more than 500 mineral springs of different composition, temperature, radioactivity and chemical composition. With the progress of medicine, the Bulgarian spas, many of which were known in the days of the Thracians and Romans, are gaining an ever greater reputation as miraculous springs, tapped today by modern balneosanatoria which are increasingly frequented by patients from abroad.

4. Hydrography

Bulgaria is rich in water, mainly rivers, springs and high-altitude lakes. In the east its shores are washed by the Black Sea, in the north by the Danube.

The Black Sea is the only sea through which Bulgaria is connected with other countries. It is not only an artery of trade, not only a base for a local fishing industry, but in the last few years its coast has become known as the Riviera of the East.

Magnificent modern seaside resorts, offering every facility for a wholesome and rewarding holiday, have sprung up amid luxuriant vegetation, on the shore of beautiful bays along the Black Sea. Its numerous beaches are covered with fine, golden sand, and the water of its shallow bays is transparent, pure and clear. Moreover, there are no sharks, poisonous fish or stinging jelly-fish, sea urchins and snails in the Black Sea. And, curiously enough, no tidal movements either. The beauty of the Black Sea is enhanced by the estuaries of the Kamchiya and Ropotamo Rivers, whose exotic scenery has left indelible impressions on many holiday-makers.

The largest Bulgarian town on the Black Sea is *Varna* (206,000). Its first settlers came here 25 centuries ago and, despite all vicissitudes of history, did not leave it. It was founded by Greek colonists who called it Odessos. Varna is our biggest Black Sea port. Railway lines link it with all parts of

the country, and airlines with the capitals of many European countries. It is an important industrial centre. Big sea-going vessels are built at the Georgi Dimitrov shipyard.

Varna is a famous seaside resort. Northeast of the town are the fashionable seaside resorts of Drouzhba (Friendship) and Golden Sands, whose names fully live up to reality.

South of Varna lies the smaller resort of Obzor, the heir of ancient Heliopolis.

Still further south, jutting out on a promontory, lies Nessebur, one of the oldest Bulgarian towns with ancient architectural monuments, ancient churches and sand dunes — connected with the mainland by a narrow isthmus. North of Nessebur lies the popular seaside resort of Sunny Beach.

The town of Pomoriyé, known for its production of sea salt and its curative mud baths, is perched on the shores further down the coastline, and south of it is *Bourgas* with about 126,500 inhabitants, the second important port after Varna. South of Bourgas lies romantic Sozopol, the Apollonia of antiquity.

The Danube, which washes Bulgaria's northern boundary, is a natural waterway linking it with the Danubian states in Europe. Its waters irrigate the Danubian Plain along its course through various irrigation schemes. As is the case with all big rivers, fishing is a highly developed industry here.

Nine towns and more than 100 villages are situated on the Bulgarian bank of the Danube. The westernmost town is Vidin (42,400) with a turbulent past, recalled by the big Baba Vida fortress, which is over six centuries old.

Further down are situated the Danubian ports of: Lom (28,500) known for its sugar refinery and electric truck plant, Svishtov (22,500), an important trading centre with a Higher Institute of Finance and Accounting, and Roussé (145,300) an important trading, industrial and transport centre, and the biggest and most beautiful Bulgarian town on the Danube.

Northeast of Roussé lies the town of Silistra in whose neighbourhood a 4th-century Roman tomb was excavated with fine murals, one of the few monuments of Roman art in Bulgaria preserved to this day.

Rivers

The territory of Bulgaria is covered with a dense network of rivers. Most of them are short and shallow and are not navigable with the exception of the Danube. They flow into the Danube, the Black and the Aegean Seas. The more important tributaries of the Danube are the Ogosta, Isker, Vit, Ossum and Yantra.

The Provadiiska, Kamchia, Ropotamo, Dyavolska, Veleka and Rezovska rivers flow directly into the Black Sea, while the Maritsa, Mesta and Strouma flow into the Aegean. The water basin of the Maritsa covers nearly one third of the country's territory.

Until 25 years ago the water of the rivers was left practically untapped. The total irrigated area did not exceed 30,000 hectares. Frequent droughts used to bedevil agriculture. In the past two decades major irrigation schemes were built along the Danube, Isker, Maritsa, Strouma and other rivers. At present the total irrigated area amounts to almost a million hectares of arable land.

5. Climate

Most of Bulgaria has a temperate continental climate which is more pronounced in North Bulgaria, while in the Thracian Plain and the southern border regions the climate is transitional in character, ranging from continental to Mediterranean.

The mean annual temperature is about 12°C. The mean temperature in January is about 0°, and in July — about 22°C. Mean annual precipitation is 650 litres per square metre.

6. Flora and Fauna

Bulgaria's vegetation is rich and varied. The country's geographic situation and complex relief favour the growth of over 3,000 species of Central European, Mediterranean and steppe vegetation, some of which have long since disappeared elsewhere in Europe.

Along the Black Sea coast one encounters isolated vegetable species, such as the evergreen periwinkle and the cypress. The alpine rose grows in the high parts of the Rila Mountains, and the edelweiss on the peaks of the Pirin and the Balkan Range. Bulgaria abounds in curative herbs and medicinal plants.

The forests, which cover nearly one third of the territory, primarily the highlands, constitute a great national wealth. The coniferous forests comprise the white and black pine, resinous and pitch pine, Norway spruce, fir and dwarf pine. Among the deciduous species the oak, beech, hornbeam, elm, ash, linden and hazel are encountered most frequently.

Bulgaria's fauna contains Nordic, as well as Central European and Mediterranean species.

Mammals include bears, wolves, foxes, badgers, wild cats, boars, deer and stags, as well as certain rodents left over from

the glacial fauna. Of the Mediterranean fauna certain bats and the jackal (mainly in Southeastern Bulgaria) are encountered.

Large birds of prey are represented by the bearded vulture. There are quite a few partridges, quail and pheasants, and colonies of pelicans in Sreburna Lake.

Reptiles and amphibians are represented by some 50 species.

Insects include the Egyptian sacred dung-beetle, the praying mantis, about 1,100 species of butterflies and many spiders. Cave fauna is represented by over 75 organisms.

The varied flora and fauna, the picturesque combination of high mountains, covered with rank alpine pastures, and fertile plains, a golden sunny coast and scenic beauty make Bulgaria an exceptionally attractive country, generously endowed by nature.

7. Population

Bulgaria has a population of 8,404,000. Its average density is 76.3 persons per square km, and in certain regions over 100 persons per sq. km.

Bulgarians constitute 88 per cent of the population. Most of them are free from religious prejudices. Those who are religious belong mainly to the Greek Orthodox Church. There are also Moslems and a few Roman Catholics and Protestants.

The Turks constitute the largest minority group, accounting for 8.6 per cent of the total population. They settled in the Bulgarian lands between the 15th and 18th century, at a time when the Balkan Peninsula formed part of the Ottoman Empire. The Gypsies constitute the second largest minority group, accounting for 2.6 per cent of the population. Small groups of other nationalities, such as Armenians, Russians, Greeks, Jews, Tartars, Rumanians and Karakachans (Hellenized Thracians), also live in Bulgaria.

All nationalities in Bulgaria enjoy equal rights and liberties, speak their own language, keep their own traditions and actively participate on an equal footing with the Bulgarians in the country's administration, as well as in its economic and cultural life.

Major demographic changes occurred during the last two decades. To begin with, the death rate was strongly reduced from 13.4 per mille in 1939 to 9.5 per mille in 1969, while the average life span increased from 52 years in 1935-39 to 71 years in 1965-67.

As a result of the country's rapid industrialization and the mechanization of agriculture, major changes have taken place in the social and economic distribution of the population. In 25 years the urban population increased from 21 per cent to 47 per cent. In 1969 the total number of workers and employees amounted to 2,616,900.

There are 170 towns, 19 localities of an urban type and 5,494 villages.

8. Sofia — Bulgaria's Capital

Sofia is situated at an altitude of 550 m above sea level in the southern part of the Sofia Plain at the foot of Mt. Vitosha.

It was founded in the 1st century B. C. As a fortified town of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium) Serdica (as it was called by the Romans) suffered the devastating blows of the barbarians. At the time of Emperor Justinian (4th century), it once again became an important town in the Eastern Roman Empire. In the 6th century, Serdica was overrun by the Slav tribes which invaded the Balkan Peninsula. In the 9th century the town, which had become Slav in character and assumed the Slavic name of Sredets (central), was an important military, political and cultural centre of the large Mediaeval Bulgarian state. Towards the end of the 14th century it began to be called Sofia. When in 1386 it fell under Ottoman domination, the town became the centre of a big administrative region including almost all the lands of the Balkan Peninsula.

At the end of Ottoman rule Sofia had acquired a truly Oriental aspect. Liberation in 1878 found it economically backward and with a population of some 20,000.

In 1878 Sofia was chosen to be the capital of newly-liberated Bulgaria.

Today Sofia is the biggest socio-political, economic and cultural centre of Bulgaria with a population of more than 950,676 inhabitants. The capital accounts for more than one fifth of the country's industrial output and of its total number of workers. Machine-building holds first place.

Sofia is a crossroad of many railways, highways and airlines.

Sofia is Bulgaria's foremost cultural and educational centre. It is the seat of the State University and many other establishments of higher education, in which more than 30,000 Bulgarian and foreign students study. It is also the seat of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Agricultural Sci-

ences. There are a number of other cultural institutes, libraries, art galleries, museums, quite a few general educational and technical schools, houses of culture, cinemas and theatres, an opera and a broadcasting and TV station.

Sofia is ever growing but never old, as the motto on its coat-of-arms says. The city has radically changed. New modern housing estates, parks, gardens, monuments boulevards, and entire new districts have made their appearance.

Sofia is a clean and attractive capital, called by many foreigners a garden city. Its advantageous situation, favourable climate, mineral baths and wonderful environs have turned it into a natural resort.

The Rila Mountains, a view of Mount Malyovitsa ►

II. History

1. Foundation of the Slav-Bulgarian State (7th to 11th c.)

The Bulgarian state was founded in 681 following an alliance concluded between the Southern Slavs and the Proto-Bulgarians.

In the 6th century the Southern Slavs, who belong to the Indo-European ethnical group, set foot on the Balkan Peninsula, gradually succeeded in getting rid of Byzantine domination on the Peninsula and in permanently settling there. They found support in the local, Thracian — Illyrian population who in their turn were helped by the Slavs to throw off the hateful bondage.

In the 7th century, coming from the Azov region north of the Caucasus, the Proto-Bulgarians, a tribe of Turkic origin, also penetrated into the Balkan Peninsula. Led by Khan Asparouh, in 680 they routed a strong Byzantine army at the Danube estuary and settled in what is now Northeast Bulgaria.

The Proto-Bulgarians concluded an alliance with the Slav tribes, thus laying the foundations of the Slav-Bulgarian state. In 681 Byzantium concluded a peace treaty with the new state, which was called Bulgaria, agreeing to pay tribute to it, an act tantamount to *de facto* recognition. Pliska became the first capital of Bulgaria whose boundary with Byzantium ran along the Balkan Range.

Bulgaria's social and political system was of the early feudal type. Feudalism as a dominant system, based upon the relation of lord to vassal, with the holding of land in feud, got consolidated towards the 10th century. On top of the pyramid was an almighty ruler, invested with the prerogatives of supreme power, known as khan or prince, and later as tsar.

◀ *A Bulgarian girl*

In the 9th and 10th century the Bulgarian state reached the peak of its military and political might, which was also a golden age of culture.

During the reign of Khan Kroum (803-814), an illustrious general, statesman and the first legislator, the Bulgarians crushed the Avars in the West, and in 811 inflicted a major defeat on Byzantium. The Byzantine army was routed and destroyed in one of the passes of the Eastern Balkan Range and Emperor Nicephorus himself fell in battle. In the middle of the 9th century the borders of Bulgaria extended to the river Tissa in the northwest, the Carpathians in the north, the Dnieper in the east, the Adriatic in the southwest and the Rhodopes in the south.

These victories and the ensuing long peace with Byzantium enabled mediaeval Bulgaria to consolidate itself as a big state. A great number of palaces, strategic fortresses, bridges and monuments were built, the arts and architecture flourished. One of the most remarkable monuments of that time is the well-preserved rock relief near Pliska, known as the Madara Horseman.

The adoption of Christianity as the official state religion during the reign of Prince Boris (852-889) did away with religious differences between Slavs and Bulgarians and served as ideological programme of the feudal system. The newly-formed Bulgarian nation was now able to absorb the cultural values of other nations.

The creation of the Slavic alphabet in 855 by the brothers Cyril and Methodius, Slavs from Salonica by origin, gave a major impetus to Bulgaria's social, economic and cultural development.

Slavic literature began to spread in Bulgaria after 885, when the disciples of Cyril and Methodius, exiled from Greater Moravia, were warmly welcomed by Prince Boris. These people's enlighteners developed a laudable educational and literary activity. Climent of Ochrid established a school, in which he educated more than 3,500 teachers and priests.

The Bulgarian state reached its highest peak politically, territorially and culturally under Tsar Simeon (893-927). Central power became stabilized, with the boyars rallying around the new ruler. As a result of victorious wars against Byzantium, all lands inhabited by Slavs were annexed to Bulgaria. The Byzantines suffered their heaviest defeat in 917 in the battle at the river Acheloe (in the neighbourhood of the town of Pomorié) at the Black Sea coast. Macedonia and Albania were annexed to Bulgaria.

With territorial expansion, great wealth was accumulated in the hands of the tsar and the feudal lords, and the necessary

conditions were created for a rapid cultural development. Architecture, literature and the arts flourished. Preslav, which in 893 became the capital, emerged as the foremost centre of Slav literature and culture. The Greek language was abolished and all inscriptions were henceforth written in Slavic. During this period, known as the golden age of Bulgarian literature, the first Bulgarian writers, John the Exarch, Konstantin of Preslav, Chernorizets Hrabur and others, came to the fore.

The official and apocryphal literature in Bulgaria in the late 9th and early 10th century helped to spread the Slav language and to weld the Bulgarian nation on the basis of this new original culture. Bulgarian civilization in those days had a strong impact on the cultural development of the other Slav peoples.

The consequences of the long and exhausting wars with the Byzantines, the impoverishment of the masses, the internecine struggles of the feudal lords, especially after Tsar Simeon's death (927), led to the gradual decline of Bulgaria. The dissatisfaction of the masses and their hatred of the ruling classes found an expression in the Bogomil movement, named after its founder, the priest Bogomil. Religious in form, social and economic in essence, this movement, with its shaft pointed at feudal oppression and the official church, was one of the first remarkable social manifestations of the Bulgarian people. The Bogomils taught the serfs not to work for their feudal lords, to disobey the king, to fight against private ownership and war. The life of the Bogomils and their ideas found warm support among the masses. Bogomilism penetrated into Asia Minor, Serbia and Bosnia, and exerted a major influence on the religious opposition movements in the West — in Italy (Cathari), in France (Albigenses) and Bohemia (Hussites).

The numerous grievances of the masses, as well as the separative actions of the boyars and the impotence of the rulers,



Kliment of Ochrid

facilitated the aggressive designs of Byzantium, which resumed its wars with the intent of wiping Bulgaria off the map. In 972 it succeeded in conquering the Eastern Bulgarian provinces. Western Bulgaria, with Ochrid as capital, heroically defended its independence until 1018, under the leadership of Tsar Samuil, a distinguished warrior and ruler.

The Byzantine conquerors indulged in abuse, robbery and outrages. They were intent on destroying the pith and marrow of the national spirit — Bulgarian literature — so as to deaden the people's national consciousness. But all attempts at assimilating the Bulgarians were doomed to dismal failure. The Bulgarians did not get reconciled to their plight, and on two occasions staged major revolts with the aim of restoring the Bulgarian state (1040-41 and 1072). These temporary failures did not break the spirit of the people, fanned not only by the arbitrary actions of the conquerors, but also by the Bogomil movement, which channeled their struggle not only against social oppression but also against foreign political domination.

2. The Second Bulgarian State (12th to 14th c.)

In 1187, as a result of a big uprising, headed by the two brothers Peter and Assen, Byzantium was forced to recognize the independence of the Bulgarian lands lying north of the Balkan Range. This marked the beginning of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, with its capital Turnovo. Assen and Peter fell victim to a conspiracy. They were succeeded at the head of the state by their younger brother Kaloyan (1197-1207), who showed himself to be a bold and far-sighted statesman, diplomat and general. He gradually liberated all the Bulgarian lands under Byzantine rule: Eastern Moesia, Thrace, Macedonia and the Belgrade region. In 1202 Byzantium concluded a peace treaty with Bulgaria, recognizing the lands liberated by Kaloyan.



Paissii of Hilendar

In 1204 Kaloyan succeeded in stabilizing the international status of the country by signing a union with the Pope. But now a new threat emerged: the Latin Empire, proclaimed in 1204 by the crusaders who had conquered Byzantium and settled in Constantinople.

The Latin Emperor Baldwin rejected Kaloyan's proposals for peace and good-neighbourly relations and haughtily insisted that the Bulgarians should behave towards the Latins as slaves did towards their masters. Kaloyan then undertook a daring march to the south. On April 14, 1205, the Bulgarian cavalry routed the knights at Adrianople, after which they were unable to pull themselves together. Emperor Baldwin himself fell captive and was taken to Turnovo as a prisoner.

Kaloyan had just liberated Thrace and Macedonia and was getting ready to attack Salonika, when he was perfidiously murdered by boyars who had conspired against him.

After Kaloyan's death the country went through a severe crisis. Bulgaria became an arena of internecine struggles, Tartar onslaughts and cruel massacres of the Bogomils who saw in rebellion the only way out of the tragedy that had befallen them.

It was in such a setup that the usurper Boril was dethroned. Then, with the help of the people the throne was occupied by Ivan Assen II (1218-1241). Under his rule Bulgaria again attained greatness and became the most powerful state in the whole of South-eastern Europe. In 1230, at Klokotnitsa (Thrace), the Bulgarian troops routed the Byzantine army led by Theodore Comnenus, despot of Epirus, who was taken prisoner together with his men who had survived. Ivan Assen II liberated all Bulgarian lands from foreign bondage and from the rule of the Byzantine feudal lords. Favourable conditions were at hand in the vast Bulgarian state for an economic and cultural upsurge. Ivan Assen built churches, fortresses and bridges, minted coins, patronaged trade and the arts, did not persecute the Bogomils.

Under Ivan Assen's heirs Bulgaria again went through a number of distresses and suffered a general decline. The economic conditions for an uprising existed but a revolutionary setup was created only when the internecine struggles, foreign onslaughts, and heavy taxes reached their climax and exploitation became unbearable. There was no other way out for the people but to rise in arms. In 1277 a mass peasant anti-feudal uprising broke out in Northeast Bulgaria. It was headed by the swineherd Ivailo Burdokva. The rural anti-feudal revolution routed and expelled the Tartars out of the country, then led the royal troops and captured the capital of Turnovo. Ivailo was proclaimed king.

The success of that first in the world anti-feudal uprising caused serious anxiety in the neighbouring countries. In response, the Byzantine Emperor sent troops against the peasant king, and the Tartars renewed their invasions.

Ivailo's troops drove back the Byzantines and defeated the Tartars. These wars, however, exhausted the peasant army to the utmost, while the lot of the peasants who got nothing became even worse. Their resistance weakened. The boyars braced up and dethroned Ivailo in 1280.

After the failure of the uprising the central power in Bulgaria grew weaker while that of the boyars gained strength. The rulers of the Terter and Shishman dynasties could not stop the de-centralization and weakening of the Bulgarian state, which was no longer capable of defending its independence from foreign enemies.

Despite these vicissitudes and constant ups and downs, Bulgarian culture marked new, considerable progress. Bulgarian writers during that epoch, such as Patriarch Evtimi, Grigorii Tsamblak, Konstantin Kostenechki and others, founded their own schools and created their own type of literature. Along with religious books, works of a secular character made their appearance, treating of realistic subjects.

Churches, architectural monuments and fortresses, revealing a fine taste, breadth of view and a practical sense, were built. What has been preserved through the ages arouses in us a feeling of justified pride in the talent of the Bulgarians. A case in point are the murals of the Boyana Church near Sofia, painted in 1259.

This great progress in Bulgarian literature and art left its mark in the people's traditions, on the monuments and in the people's memory, and played a big part in preserving the Bulgarian national consciousness through the five gloomy centuries of bondage under the Ottoman oppressors.

The incessant internecine struggles and endless wars with Byzantium and Serbia in the 14th century reduced the masses to utter poverty, weakened and sapped the country. During the reign of Ivan Alexander (1331-1371) Bulgaria was divided into three states — the Turnovo Kingdom, the Vidin Kingdom and the Dobroudja Principality.

In the meantime, in the mid-14th century, the Ottoman Empire, which had become a strong state in Asia Minor, set foot on the European shore of the Sea of Marmara and launched out on its wars of aggression against the Balkan Peninsula.

The Balkan states, which were engaged in constant wars and were blinded by irreconcilable enmity, failed to rally before the common danger and, although they offered prolonged and

heroic resistance, easily fell prey to the strong military organization of the Ottomans.

After a long siege, Turnovo fell in 1393, followed in 1396 by Vidin, the second Bulgarian capital. Mediaeval Bulgaria thus ceased to exist as an independent state and became a province of the Ottoman Empire.

The most trying period in the history of the Bulgarian people set in, a period of unprecedented atrocities, abuse, cruelty and humiliations. The Ottoman conquerors carried out a mass colonization of Turks, pursuing a ruthless policy of national, economic, cultural and religious assimilation. Monasteries and libraries were indiscriminately destroyed.

The Ottoman conquerors established a military feudal system on Bulgarian soil, which was much more backward than the feudal system of the Bulgarian mediaeval state. They practised far more cruel forms of exploitation and spoliation. The Bulgarians had to pay over 90 regular taxes and as many irregular ones. What the state failed to rob them of through state taxes was pocketed by the Ottoman feudal lords and spahis. This system of economic bondage brought the productive forces to a complete standstill, checking Bulgaria's economic development over the following centuries.

But the Bulgarian people did not bend their heads. Armed revolts broke out every now and then throughout the country, though they were crushed with indescribable cruelty.

Bold people's sons formed revolutionary haidouk detachments, which protected the people against the atrocities of the government and fought the Ottoman forces.

The numerous uprisings and the haidouk movement in the period between the 15th and 18th centuries sapped the foundations of the Ottoman Empire and steeled the will of the Bulgarian people to continue the fight until their complete triumph.

3. National-Liberation Movement and Bulgaria's Liberation (Late 18th and 19th c.)

During the second half of the 18th century capitalist relations of production began to emerge in Bulgaria. Conditions were growing ripe for the abolition of feudalism and the establishment of capitalism. But the fight against feudalism was impossible without the overthrow of the Ottoman military feudal system, without the formation of a national-liberation ideology and without an organized struggle for national and social liberation.

The first ideologist of Bulgaria's national revival was Paissii of Hilendar (1722-1798). In 1762 he wrote 'A Slav-Bulgarian History' which was an ardent appeal to the Bulgarian people to cherish their own language and national consciousness, to scorn all renegades and fight for national revival and liberation.

Under the influence of the ideas of national revival, in the first half of the 19th century a strong educational movement developed among the people. Schools and library clubs began to make their appearance in town and village. Public libraries and theatrical companies were organized. Literature and the periodical press developed rapidly.

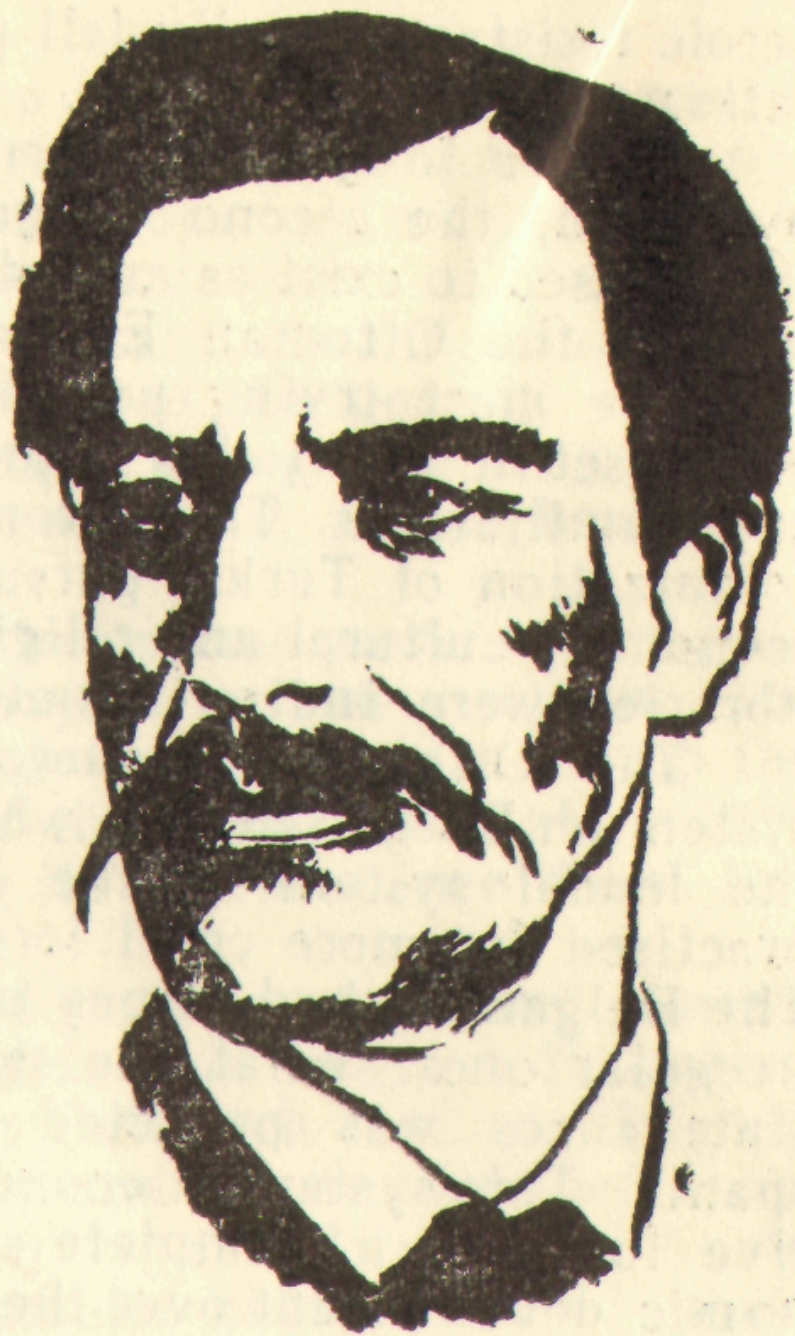
The flourishing of education and culture in Bulgaria was accompanied by the struggle for church autonomy from the Greek Patriarchate, which, as soon as the Turks had set foot on the Balkan Peninsula, had usurped all church matters in the Bulgarian lands. Having assumed a nation-wide character, the struggle for an independent church was long and dramatic.

In 1870 the Ottoman Government, in order to blunt the growing unrest among the people and stop the revolutionary process issued a decree granting autonomy to the Bulgarian church, headed by an exarch, thereby recognizing the Bulgarians as a separate nationality.

But Bulgaria's further development was held in check by the foreign domination and, to pull down all barriers, the Bulgarian people had to rise in arms for their complete national and political liberation.

The high point in Bulgaria's national revival was the powerful national revolutionary movement for the complete liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman domination, which developed in the '60s and '70s of the 19th century.

The first ideologist and organizer of this movement was Georgi S. Rakovski (1821-1867). Rakovski was one of the most



Georgi Rakovski

prominent figures of that period, an enlightener, poet, journalist, politician, organizer and revolutionary. He intended to liberate Bulgaria by means of armed bands trained abroad, which would rouse the people to take up arms. These bands, however, trained and armed in neighbouring Serbia and Rumania, proved to be no match for the regular Ottoman army and were destroyed in hard-fought battles without achieving the desired result.

These setbacks made it necessary to work out a new tactic in the revolutionary struggle. This was achieved by the legendary son of the Bulgarian people, the consistent revolutionary democrat *Vassil Levski* (1837-



Vassil Levski



Lyuben Karavelov

1873). He stressed the necessity of setting up revolutionary organizations for the preparation of a general uprising inside the country, attaching great importance to the participation of the masses in the fight for liberation and the necessity of their being well organized and armed.

In 1869 Lyuben Karavelov and Vassil Levski founded the Bulgarian Secret Revolutionary Central Committee in Bucharest, which assumed the leadership of the revolutionary movement.

Vassil Levski returned to Bulgaria, where he set up an Internal Secret Revolutionary Organization with a wide network of local committees. In the heat of the preparations for the national uprising, Vassil

Levski was dastardly betrayed and apprehended by the Turks who publicly hanged him in Sofia in 1873.

After Levski's death, the Central Revolutionary Committee was headed by the great poet and revolutionary *Hristo Botev* (1848-1876).

Hristo Botev was a fervent revolutionary democrat and utopian socialist. He saw the only salvation of the oppressed Bulgarian people in a revolution which would be 'national, immediate and desperate', which would clear the Balkan Peninsula not only of the Ottomans but also of all that hampered complete and 'absolute human freedom'.

The ideas and wholehearted organizational work of the Bulgarian revolutionaries gave a strong impetus to the people's liberation struggle which reached its climax in the heroic April 1876 Uprising. The uprising broke out in the town of Koprivshtitsa and spread with lightning speed to Panagyurishtë, the Sredna Gora region and the Northern Rhodopes, then to the Balkan Mountains and as far as Turnovo. The Ottoman Government sent its regular army against the insurgents and hard, unequal battles were fought.

Hristo Botev sped to the support of the risen people, setting out from Rumania at the head of 200 insurgents and forcing the captain of the Austrian ship 'Radetzki' to cast anchor on the Bulgarian bank of the Danube. After overcoming the armed resistance of Ottoman military units Botev's detachment reached Mount Okolchitsa in the neighbourhood of Vratsa, where in a hard-fought battle the poet was killed and his detachment, which had run out of ammunition, was dispersed.

Despite the unprecedented heroism and self-sacrifice of the risen people, their forces could not withstand the numerically far superior and better armed Ottoman troops. The uprising



Hristo Botev

was ruthlessly suppressed. The risen towns, villages and regions were put to fire and sword.

Although it ended in defeat, the April Uprising shook the very foundations of the Ottoman Empire, laying bare to the whole world the ugly face of the Ottoman rulers and the Bulgarian people's resolve to rid themselves of their oppressors. A mighty wave of protest swept the whole civilized world. Public opinion in many European countries was foursquare on the side of the Bulgarians, but it was only in Russia that a powerful movement developed for the liberation of the fraternal Bulgarian people. After the Ottoman Government refused to grant autonomy to Bulgaria, in accordance with the decision of the Great Powers taken at their Constantinople Conference in 1876, in April 1877 Russia declared war on Turkey. Side by side with the Russians fought the Rumanian Army. The news about the War of Liberation was welcomed with unprecedented joy and enthusiasm in Bulgaria. A special military unit, called Bulgarian Volunteers, was formed to assist the Russians. In the battles at Shipka Pass in the Balkan Range, which were of decisive importance for the outcome of the war, these volunteers displayed great courage and heroism in the defence of the pass, the Balkan Range and Bulgaria.

The Ottoman Army suffered a number of major defeats. On March 3, 1878, at San Stefano, Turkey signed a treaty of capitulation, recognizing Bulgaria's independence. The boundaries of the newly-liberated state included North and South Bulgaria, as well as almost all of Macedonia.

The Great Western Powers, and particularly the British Tory Government headed by Lord Beaconsfield, could not get reconciled to Russia's successes. They convened the Berlin Congress, at which Bulgaria was carved up into three parts: the Principality of Bulgaria including North Bulgaria and the Sofia region; Eastern Rumelia (South Bulgaria), an autonomous region under the direct rule of the Sultan; and Aegean Thrace and Macedonia which were returned to Ottoman rule.

The Russo-Turkish war of liberation was in character a just and progressive war. It put an end to the domination of the Ottoman Empire over North and South Bulgaria, destroyed the Ottoman feudal system and paved the way for Bulgaria's independent development as a state along the bourgeois capitalist road which at that time was progressive.

4. Bulgaria under Capitalist Rule (1878-1944)

The Russo-Turkish war of liberation not only freed the Bulgarian people from foreign rule, but also wiped out the Ottoman military feudal system, thus resolving the task of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in Bulgaria. The unification of North and South Bulgaria in 1885 created conditions for an unimpeded capitalist development of the country.

A period of rapid economic development set in. The process of exploitation and ruin of the tax-ridden middling and poor peasants was accelerated. Railway lines, ports and factories began to be built. A proletariat emerged which was subjected to merciless exploitation. The working day reached 14 and even 16 hours. The army of the unemployed and destitute was steadily swelled by ruined peasants.

Foreign capital penetrated Bulgaria ever more widely, placing the nation's economy in a position of dependence and extracting exorbitant profits. Tsar Ferdinand of Coburg-Gotha who came to the throne in 1887, an extreme reactionary and unbridled adventurer, and an agent of German and Austro-Hungarian imperialism, played a particularly sinister role in this connexion.

Political parties, expressing the interest of different social classes and groups, sprang up.

In 1891 Dimiter Blagoev, the foremost Marxist on the Balkans at that time, laid the foundations of the Bulgarian Communist Party. Trade unions were also set up, which in 1904 merged into the General Workers' Trade Union. The young and ardent revolutionary, Georgi Dimitrov, headed the trade unions.

Faced with intensifying exploitation, the workers, still few in number, began to organize strikes, particularly after 1905. The bourgeois governments found it ever more difficult to resist the pressure of the masses, and that is why they resorted to terror and violence.

The rapid development of capitalism called for an expansion of markets and for the conquest of new lands. These goals happened to coincide with the interests of the national-liberation struggle of the population in Macedonia, Thrace, Kossovo Polé and Albania, which were still smarting under Ottoman rule and expecting help from the already liberated Balkan states.

In 1912 Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro formed the *Balkan Alliance* and started military operations against Turkey. Within 25 days Turkey was beaten and asked for a cessation of hostilities.

But while the military operations against Turkey had not yet ended, differences had arisen between the allies over the distribution of the conquered territories, and despite the will of the Balkan peoples, the Second Balkan War broke out (June-July, 1913). The Bulgarian Army had to fight the combined forces of Greece, Serbia and Montenegro, with Turkey resuming hostilities and Rumania invading the defenceless northern part of the country. The Bulgarian government was compelled to sue for peace. The Bucharest Peace Treaty legalized the annexation of Bulgarian territories by the neighbouring states.

In October 1915 Tsar Ferdinand and the domestic bourgeoisie, hoping to recapture the territories lost in the Second Balkan War got Bulgaria involved in the First World War on the side of Germany. After crushing Serbia, the Bulgarian forces faced the allied expeditionary corps in the southwest and later also Rumania in the north, where at the Seret river they met the Russian forces.

Despite the great bravery displayed by the Bulgarian soldiers and early military successes, the situation both at the front and in the rear deteriorated. The long war caused great hardships to the people. The economy kept on skidding downward. The Germans despoiled the country, while the bourgeoisie amassed fortunes through speculation and shady deals.

The news about the triumph of the October Socialist Revolution in Russia gave a powerful revolutionary impetus to the soldiers at the front and to the people back home. Revolts broke out in the Army, which the royal commanders crushed ruthlessly. On the Danubian front the soldiers fraternized with the Russian soldiers. Powerful demonstrations against the war and hunger, for 'peace and bread' rocked the country.

The breakthrough at Dobro Polé effected by the forces of the Entente in September 1918, brought matters to a head. An



Dimiter Blagoev

insurrection broke out, the soldiers destroyed the General Headquarters, proclaimed Bulgaria a republic and advanced towards Sofia. But here the royalist military cadets, reinforced by German units, crushed the insurrection. Thousands of soldiers were shot and others thrown into prison.

Although it was crushed, the insurrection accelerated Bulgaria's withdrawal from the war, compelling Ferdinand to abdicate in favour of his son, Boris III.

But neither the insurrection in 1918 nor the strikes in 1919 resolved the historical tasks that had come to the fore in the wake of the First World War. The economic plight, unemployment, hunger and want, all after-effects of the war, intensified the people's indignation at the criminal policy of the bourgeoisie and of the tsar. As a result, the big bourgeoisie found it advisable to temporarily cede power to the Bulgarian Agrarian Union, headed by Alexander Stamboliiski. Following the general elections held in 1920, in which the Agrarian Union emerged as the largest party, Stamboliiski formed a purely Agrarian government which ruled Bulgaria for three years (1920-23). He started introducing social reforms which, however, did not affect the foundations of the capitalist system.

The big bourgeoisie and Tsar Boris, whose economic and political interests were substantially infringed upon, secretly prepared to go over to the offensive. In 1921 the reactionary forces, united in the so-called Constitutional Bloc, set up a secret fascist organization called Popular Union, headed by Alexander Tsankov.

The fascists undertook a number of provocations, but met the organized resistance of the jointly acting Agrarian Union and Communist Party. The successful blows dealt at the reactionary fascist forces fed the illusions of the Agrarian leadership that the forces of reaction were beaten and isolated. It allowed its relations with the Communist Party to deteriorate and even started terrorizing the communists. The reactionary bourgeoisie and the tsar took advantage of these differences, and on the eve of June 9, 1923, staged a military fascist coup d'état. A new government was formed under Alexander Tsankov. Stamboliiski was arrested and brutally murdered.

More than 100,000 workers and peasants rose in armed struggle against the fascist coup d'état. Left without leadership, the rebels who had spontaneously risen in revolt, were routed by the fascists. A reign of terror set in. The fascist gangs committed atrocities in towns and villages. Thousands of communists, workers and peasants were arrested and brought to trial. Under the circumstances, the Communist Party had no alternative but to choose the road of armed struggle in self-defence against a fascism run amuck.

The uprising broke out in September 1923, assuming a mass character in Northwest Bulgaria with a centre the town of Mihailovgrad, where it was led personally by Vassil Kolarov and Georgi Dimitrov. The rebels routed and disarmed several military units and defeated others. Successes were scored also in other parts of the country. The uprising lasted two weeks. But the fact that it failed to spread to the capital and to some of the bigger towns made it possible for the government rapidly to transfer and concentrate its forces in Northwest Bulgaria and to crush the rebel units. The uprising was suppressed with unprecedented cruelty. Over 20,000 workers, peasants and representatives of the intelligentsia were shot, hanged or burned alive. Others were arrested, subjected to cruel inquisition and thrown into prison. Thousands were forced to flee the country. Many villages were burned down.

Despite its failure, however, the September 1923 Uprising, which was the first anti-fascist uprising in the world, cemented the alliance between workers and peasants, and served as a general rehearsal for the future decisive battles against fascism.

The years of monarcho-fascist dictatorship constitute the darkest period in the modern history of Bulgaria. They were years of unbridled terror, abuse, lawlessness, insecurity, years of the complete subordination of the nation's economy to the German monopolies, of the spoliation and pauperization of the masses, of growing unemployment and ruthless exploitation.

Fascist terror and obscurantism did not cow the people, however. Their struggle assumed an ever broader character. The fascists were compelled to resort to parliamentary window dressing. A bourgeois opposition, known as the Popular Bloc, emerged and won the 1931 parliamentary elections. The Popular Bloc Government was in power until 1934.

During these years the country's backward economy was shaken by economic crises, while the anti-fascist, democratic movement made rapid progress. In the Sofia municipal elections of 1932, despite the police terror, the working people voted for the candidates of the Workers' Party. History knows of no other such precedent—under the conditions of bourgeois dictatorship, by means of elections, the municipality of our country's capital was won by the communists. But the government took off its democratic mask and annulled the elections. The elections, once again showed that the conscience and actions of the politically alert people could not be subdued by fascist bayonets and police scourges.

Despite this historic lesson, the reactionary forces in 1934 established an open fascist dictatorship, wiping out the last

remnants of bourgeois democracy. Political parties were banned, freedom of assembly, speech and press was abolished.

Georgi Dimitrov's historic stand at the Reichstag Fire Trial in 1933 played an important part in rallying the masses and strengthening the anti-fascist movement in Bulgaria during this period. The great son of the Bulgarian people turned from an accused into an accuser, unmasking with great rhetorical power the barbarous, anti-popular and bellicose nature of fascism and calling the masses to unite in the fight against the offensive of fascism, for peace and progress.

It was then that the foundations of the popular anti-fascist front were laid in Bulgaria, uniting all democratic and patriotic forces in a common struggle against fascism, for the preservation of peace and democracy, against Bulgaria's joining the Axis, and for friendship with the Soviet Union.

But the fascist government, relying on the reactionary army officers and the nazi units which had invaded Bulgaria in the guise of tourists, signed a treaty tying Bulgaria to the Tripartite Pact. On March 3, 1941 German divisions entered the country, using it as a springboard for their offensives against Yugoslavia and Greece.

The heinous attack of nazi Germany against the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941 and the fact that Bulgaria had been turned into a bridgehead of the fascist forces provoked a mass wave of indignation and protest. Two days after the nazi attack on the Soviet Union the Communist Party adopted a course of armed struggle against the nazi invaders and their Bulgarian stooges. On July 26, 1941 the first partisan detachment was formed in Razlog county. Similar partisan units were subsequently formed in the other parts of the country as well. Sabotage groups were organized in towns and villages. At the end of 1941, on Germany's insistence, the Bulgarian government declared a 'symbolic war' on the USA and Great Britain. These two powers retaliated later by staging a number of devastating air-raids.

In 1942, on Georgi Dimitrov's initiative, a Fatherland Front was established, uniting all the progressive and democratic organizations and individuals in the fight against fascism and for Bulgaria's salvation.

After the rout of the nazis at Stalingrad in February 1943, the revolutionary movement in Bulgaria assumed a mass character. New partisan detachments and sabotage groups were organized. A general staff was set up to lead the partisan movement, and the country was divided into 12 operational zones. The whole nation was up in resistance.

The fascist government reacted by intensifying the terror.

It organized special units of gendarmerie to fight the partisans. Soon these had to be reinforced by an army of 100,000. The fight became ruthless and bloody. The Bulgarian fascists, much like the Ottoman bashi-bazouks, put everything to fire and sword. In the battles 9,415 partisans lost their life and 20,000 partisan aiders were shot or burned alive without a trial. Tens of thousands of fighters were thrown into prison or concentration camps. Over 200,000 militants passed through the police inferno, 2,139 homes of anti-fascists were burned down, many girls and women were raped.

But the terror, far from stilling, fanned the struggle. In 1944 the partisan detachments grew into brigades. The partisans captured villages, police headquarters and fought bloody battles with the fascist army and gendarmerie. The government forces were so busy trying to bridle internal revolt, that not a single Bulgarian soldier could be sent to the Eastern Front.

With the intensification of the anti-fascist struggle, the government began to lose control over entire regions. Disintegration spread in the army. Confusion and fear gripped the bourgeois circles and especially the local governors. They could see the fateful writing on the wall. The day of the people's reckoning and victory was approaching.

5. Along the Road of Socialism

A revolutionary situation set in in August 1944. The monarcho-fascist clique began to resort to wiles and trickery. It changed the government and promised a general amnesty, so as to appease and mislead the people, to isolate the Fatherland Front, and save its skin as well as its doomed political system.

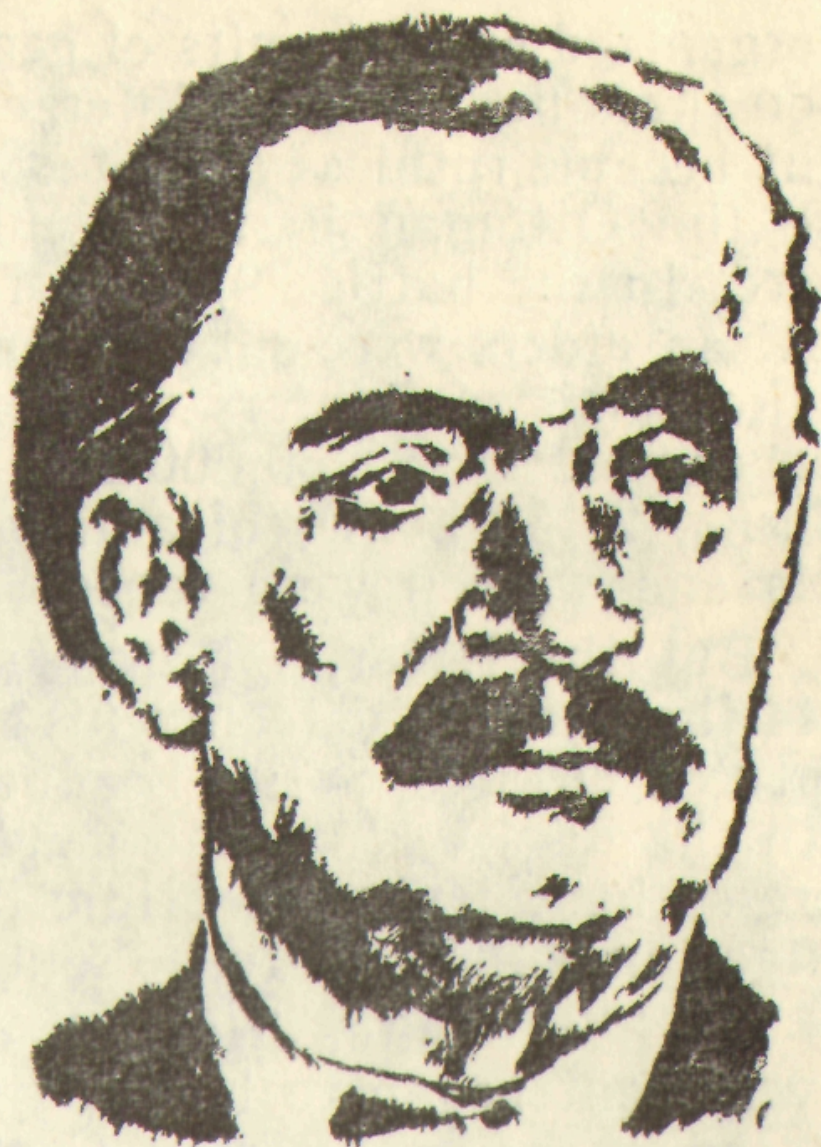
At the end of August, on Georgi Dimitrov's instructions, the Fatherland Front started preparing an armed uprising for the overthrow of the fascist government.

On September 5, 1944, the Soviet Government declared war on fascist Bulgaria. On the same day the Bulgarian Communist Party sent out an appeal to the people with the slogan: 'All Power to the Fatherland Front!' The workers in Pernik, Sofia and other towns downed tools and demonstrated in the streets. The Government issued orders to the police to shoot at the demonstrators. The numerous strikes turned into a general political strike, which paralyzed life in the capital and in many other important industrial centres. The partisan detachments and brigades occupied many villages and set up Fatherland front committees in whole regions. In many towns the masses

crashed the gates of the prisons and liberated all political prisoners.

On September 8, the Soviet forces set foot on Bulgarian soil, welcomed as liberators with bread and salt.

The decisive blow was dealt on the eve of September 9, 1944, in Sofia. The risen people, the partisan detachments, together with the military units which had passed over to the side of the revolution, captured the capital and arrested the regents and members of the Government. A Fatherland Front Government was set up. On the same day power throughout the country passed into the hands of the Fatherland Front. The fascist rulers and cut-throats were arrested and the nazi units still on Bulgarian soil were disarmed. A people's militia was created.



Georgi Dimitrov

For the first time in Bulgarian history power passed into the hands of the people, who became complete masters of their own destinies.

The foremost task facing the new government and the people was to help defeat nazi Germany and create conditions for a peaceful development of Bulgaria.

The Fatherland Front Government declared war on nazi Germany. The new Bulgarian Army, consisting of 450,000 men, after having driven back the German forces that had invaded Bulgaria, early in October passed over to the offensive against the nazis on Yugoslav territory. After a number of victorious battles, the Army cut off the nazi's way of retreat along the valleys of the Morava and Vardar rivers, securing the southern flank of the Soviet Army, which was crushing the nazi hordes in Northern Serbia.

In December 1944 the First Bulgarian Army, 130,000 men strong, took positions along the Drava and the Danube rivers in Yugoslavia. In January 1945 it launched a major offensive. After a series of battles at the River Drava and Lake Balaton early in May it reached the Alps near the town of Klagenfurt, where it met units of the British Army advancing from the west.

In the war against nazi Germany the Bulgarian nation suffered heavy casualties (some 32,000 dead), but won recognition as a co-belligerent. This was a factor of great importance in stabilizing its international status, so that the Peace Treaty, signed in Paris in 1947 was an honourable one.

Immediately after the triumph of the people's revolution of September 9, 1944, the Fatherland Front Government proceeded to introduce a number of political, social and economic reforms.

The state apparatus in the capital and in the provinces was purged of all fascist elements and reorganized so as to adapt it to the tasks of the new popular democratic system. A people's militia was set up in September, 1944 as a staunch guardian of the people's freedoms, property and public order. The reorganized Bulgarian Army, which was steeled in the Patriotic War against the nazis, became a reliable defender of national sovereignty.

A People's Court was established, which punished severely those responsible for turning Bulgaria into a satellite of the fascist Axis and for the bloody crimes perpetrated against the Bulgarian, Yugoslav and Greek anti-fascists and peoples.

All fascist organizations were disbanded and prohibited. All fascist and anti-popular laws were repealed. The new government restored and guaranteed the people's political rights and liberties, their right to organize and form various associations. A wide participation of the masses in the country's political and cultural life and government was secured.

A referendum was held in September 1946, in which the overwhelming majority of the people (92.7 per cent) voted for the abolition of the monarchy. Bulgaria became a People's Republic.

In October 1946 elections for a Grand National Assembly were held, in which the Communist Party won more than half of all the seats. Three quarters of the deputies belonged to the Fatherland Front.

A new government was formed under Georgi Dimitrov, the universally recognized leader of the Bulgarian people. It implemented a number of political and economic measures which secured the country's development along the road of socialism. Immediately after the triumph of the uprising, all industrial enterprises were placed under the control of the workers. Profits were restricted and unified prices were established for all industrial goods. A progressive income tax was introduced. A state monopoly was established in the trade with alcoholic beverages and tobacco, while private commercial firms were

placed under state control. Insurance was nationalized. An agrarian reform was carried out, which limited the ownership of land and secured land for thousands of landless and poor peasant families. With the assistance of the state, co-operative farms began to be organized in the countryside.

These economic measures helped to boost production, to stabilize the economic position of the people's democratic government and to pave the way for the launching of the Two-Year National Economic Development Plan (1947-48) aimed at rehabilitating the war-torn economy.

On December 5, 1947 the Grand National Assembly adopted the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, which legalized the people's gains and sanctioned the nation's development along the socialist road.

In December 1947 industry, banking, mining and large urban real estate were nationalized, and in the following year farm machines were purchased by the state. The Bulgarian capitalist class was thus deprived of its economic basis, and real foundations were laid for the nation's planned and accelerated development along the road of socialism.

The Two-Year Plan was fulfilled, the economy reaching and surpassing the prewar level.

Bulgaria then proceeded to build up the foundations of socialism. At the Fifth Congress of the Communist Party (1948) Georgi Dimitrov set Bulgaria the task to attain in 15 to 20 years what other countries under different circumstances had accomplished in a whole century. This, too, has now been carried out.

In the period of 1949-65, four five-year plans were fulfilled ahead of schedule. A modern, big industry was created and a multitude of strip farms were merged into big units. In 1969 industrial output increased 33 times over 1939, while farm output topped the prewar level 2.3 times. The national income increased 5.5 times, as a result of which living standards rose substantially.

During this period the socialist sector became predominant in the nation's economy. In 1969 it accounted for 99.3 per cent of the total industrial output, for 99.7 of the agricultural output, for 99.9 per cent of retail trade and for over 99 per cent of the national income.

As a result of these economic measures, radical changes took place in the class structure of society, which now consists of two non-antagonistic classes — the class of workers and that of co-operative farmers, with which the people's intelligentsia is indissolubly linked.

A cultural revolution has taken place. Knowledge and culture are now accessible to all the people, a weapon in their struggle for more happiness and higher living standards.

Socialism as a new social system has now definitely triumphed in Bulgaria. The transition from capitalist to socialist relations of production has been accomplished. The Bulgarian people, under the current Fifth Five-Year Plan, have harnessed their forces, to the complete building up of the material and technical foundations of socialism in the coming 15 to 20 years, so as to be able to start gradually laying the material and technical foundations of communism!

III. State System

The People's Republic of Bulgaria is a sovereign socialist state. It was established as the natural result of the revolutionary struggles of the working people against capitalism, imperialism and fascism. These struggles were crowned with success in September 1944, when the people, rising in revolt, wrested political power from the hands of the fascist bourgeoisie and became complete masters of the country. People's democracy became the political form of organized society.

1. Constitution

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is the fundamental law which reflects and sanctions the social, economic and political foundations of the people's democratic state order, the system and principles underlying the organization, functions and competency of the state organs, the rights and duties of the citizens and the electoral system.

The Constitution proclaims *national ownership as the economic foundation of the state*. All natural resources, above and under ground, all sources of power, railway and air communications, posts, telegraphs, telephones, radio-broadcasting and television are state-owned, i. e. the property of all the people.

Along with state ownership, the Constitution protects co-operative ownership and promotes co-operative associations.

The Constitution also recognizes private property rights. The state protects personal property, acquired through work and savings, as well as the right to inherit it.

In the case of land ownership the Constitution proclaims the principle that the land belongs to those who till it. Large privately-owned estates are not allowed.

Home and foreign trade are in the hands of the state.

Work is recognized as the fundamental social and economic factor and is under state protection.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is based on the principle: *All power derives from the people and belongs to the people*. In other words, the people are the sole masters in their country and no one else can stand above them. They alone are the holders of state power. Power is vested in representative state bodies, which are elected directly by the people.

Deputies in all representative bodies are responsible to their electors and may be recalled before the expiry of their term.

2. Electoral System

The electoral system guarantees the participation of the people in the government. Profoundly democratic in character, it secures a *general, equal and direct right to vote by secret ballot*, regardless of race, creed, nationality, education, political beliefs, sex or property status.

All citizens over 18 years of age enjoy the right to vote and to be elected.

The democratic character of the electoral system is revealed by the composition of the National Assembly. Out of a total of 416 national representatives, 50 are industrial workers, 51 are farmers, 226 are public figures, and 45 are scientists, writers, educators and artists. Of all 51,278 representatives elected to the district and local councils, nearly 4,500 are workers, nearly 22,000 farmers, over 16,000 office workers, and the rest — public and cultural workers, scientists and artists.

A principle of the electoral system is the periodical replacement of the deputies.

3. State Bodies

In the course of the socialist revolution the old, bourgeois state apparatus was superseded by a state of a new type and with new state bodies.

The political foundations of the state apparatus are the National Assembly and people's councils. These are representative bodies, elected by universal, equal and direct vote, through which the people implement political power.

Democratic centralism, which combines the centralized guidance of society with the widest participation of the masses in the governments, is the fundamental principle on which the state system rests.

National Assembly

The National Assembly is the supreme organ of state power. It is a representative body of the sovereign will of all the people. The National Assembly is the only supreme body which implements the state power on a national scale.

All other supreme state bodies (the Presidium of the National Assembly, the Government, the Supreme Court and the Chief Public Prosecutor) are appointed and can be replaced by the National Assembly at any time.

The National Assembly determines the main lines of the nation's home and foreign policy, votes the state budget and the national economic plans. It passes laws, takes decisions, and makes declarations. The acts passed by it are binding on all the other state bodies.

Presidium of the National Assembly

The Presidium of the National Assembly is a standing body of state power, elected by the National Assembly and responsible to it.

Alongside with its other functions, the Presidium represents Bulgaria before other countries.

Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers or Government is the supreme body of state government. Directly or through the ministries, committees and departments established at it, it guides, coordinates and directs all the nation's administrative, economic and cultural activities, guarantees law and public order, individual rights and liberties, and is in charge of foreign policy and national defence.

The members of the Government are elected and released from duty by the National Assembly. The Government is responsible and reports on its activity to the National Assembly.

Local Bodies of Government

Bulgaria is divided into 28 administrative districts. Every district is a separate territorial unit, within the limits of which

all political, state, economic and cultural life is carried on. The territory of every district is divided into municipalities — urban and rural.

State leadership and economic management within the district are in the hands of the respective people's councils and their executive committees.

The people's councils are organizations of the working people, being elected directly by the inhabitants of the district. The district people's councils comprise a total of 4,575 councillors, the municipal people's councils — 11,447 and the communal ones — 35,256.

The people's councils elect standing commissions as auxiliary bodies, which now have a total of 38,764 members and 14,843 voluntary assistants.

Courts and Public Prosecutors

The courts and the public prosecutors are entrusted with the task of defending the existing social system, as established and legislatively sanctioned by the Constitution and the laws, and of safeguarding the constitutional rights of the citizens. The Supreme Court and the Chief Public Prosecutor are elected to and dismissed from office by the National Assembly. The judges at the district municipal courts are elected and dismissed from office by the respective council.

The judges are independent. Acting as a college, they apply the laws strictly and equally to all citizens. Assessors also take part in the administration of justice. There are also comradely courts, which decide upon cases of a private character and minor offences against public order.

The public prosecutors are directly subordinated to the supreme body of state power — the National Assembly. Their task is to watch over the strict application of the laws. They are centralized and independent of the other state bodies.

4. Civil Rights and Liberties

The rights and liberties of the citizens in socialist Bulgaria are something real, as they rest on the socialist ownership of the means of production, which guarantees real freedom, for every individual.

Equality of Citizens

The Constitution provides that all citizens are equal before the law and have equal rights and obligations. Nationality,

origin, creed or property status confer no privileges. 'Propagation of racial, national or religious hatred shall be punished by the law.' (Art. 71)

Equal Rights for Women

The Constitution stipulates: 'Woman enjoys equal rights with man in all fields of state, private, economic, social, cultural and political life. This equality shall be achieved by securing to woman, on an equal footing with man, the right to work, to equal pay for equal work, the right to rest, to social security, to a pension and to education.' (Art. 72)

What is more, a mother is entitled to a long leave of absence for pregnancy and maternity. No one can dismiss a pregnant woman from her job, or refuse to give her a job for that reason. The extensive system of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens, public bakeries, laundries, kitchens and canteens is a tangible expression of the care for mothers.

Women now take a most active part in the country's government. More than 17 per cent of the national representatives and over 20 per cent of the councillors in the local state bodies are women.

Right to Work

The sacred and inviolable right to work is legally and actually guaranteed to all citizens. Work is a matter of honour for every citizen, as he is liberated from the chains of exploitation. Everyone is bound to do some socially useful work and to do his job conscientiously according to the best of his capacity.

The state is bound to ensure the practical implementation of the right to work, and its fair remuneration according to quantity and quality. There is no unemployment in Bulgaria.

The Labour Code, adopted in 1951, protects the Bulgarian citizen's rights to work.

Right to Paid Vacations

The right to paid vacations in Bulgaria has been guaranteed and applied into practice. Industrial and office workers are entitled to paid annual vacations of from 14 to 45 days (according to their category). Concrete conditions have been created for a rewarding and useful rest at the best resorts and in comfortable holiday houses.

Pensions and Social Insurance

The right to a pension and social security in case of sickness, disability and old age has been legally established. Social insurance, which removes all anxiety about the morrow, covers not only industrial and office workers, but also members of producer co-operatives, cultural workers, as well as private craftsmen and tradesmen, in case they desire to be covered by the social insurance scheme.

Bulgaria is one of the few countries in the world which has radically resolved the rural pensions problem. All co-operative farm members are guaranteed a pension.

Free Medical Aid

Care for man's health is a basic concern of the socialist state. In Bulgaria the population is entitled to free medical aid.

Education

The socialist state devotes particular attention to the development and education of our youth. Primary education is universal, compulsory and free. Our young people have free access to all higher and specialized educational institutions. For them, too, the principle 'equal pay for equal work' holds good. Every able-bodied young man who graduates from a higher or specialized institution is guaranteed a job in accordance with his training and capabilities.

Every young person who is 18 years of age enjoys electoral rights and can be elected. In the National Assembly 39 of the deputies are young people and 3,358 young people are councillors in the local bodies of government.

Religious Freedom

The Constitution secures both the freedom of conscience and religion, and the right to perform religious rites and ceremonies. The socialist state considers religion as a personal matter. Every citizen may profess any religion, provided that he does no harm to others and does not endanger public order.

Religion and church property are under the protection of the state. What is more, the church receives annual subsidies from the state. The theological faculty is maintained with state subsidies. The state also sets aside substantial funds for the restoration and maintenance of church buildings of historical value.

The Constitution further guarantees: *the right to form associations, the freedom and inviolability of the individual, the inviolability of the home, the secret of correspondence, the right to file requests and petitions, protection for marriage and the family, protection of Bulgarian citizens abroad.*

5. Public Organizations

The democratic principle in the functioning of state organs and in the nation's entire life also finds expression in the important role which the political parties and public organizations play in the administration of the country.

a. Political Parties

There are two political parties in Bulgaria: the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Bulgarian Agrarian Union.

The *Bulgarian Communist Party* is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist Party, the universally acknowledged leading force in the nation's entire social, political, economic and cultural life. It was founded as a workers' social democratic party in 1891 on the initiative of Dimiter Blagoev, the founder of socialism in Bulgaria.

It was renamed Bulgarian Communist Party in 1919 and became a co-founder of the Third Communist International, whose active member it was until the latter's self-dissolution in 1943.

Led by Georgi Dimitrov in an intransigent struggle against right opportunists and left sectarians, and in bitter and bloody battles with the class enemy, the Communist Party emerged as a decisive force. It headed the struggles of the working people against bourgeois reaction, fascism and war, rallied the patriotic and democratic forces into the Fatherland Front, organized the victorious September 9, 1944 uprising, headed the revolutionary-democratic and socialist changes in the country and secured the complete triumph of socialist production relations and of socialism.

The official organ of the Bulgarian Communist Party is the *Rabotnichesko Delo*.

The Bulgarian Communist Party now has 672,075 members.

The *Bulgarian Agrarian Union* was founded in 1899 as a peasant organization of a professional and educational character. In 1900 it was transformed into a political organization and a party of the poor and middle peasants.

After the First World War, from 1919 to 1923, the Bulgarian Agrarian Union came to power. The Government, headed by its ideologist, Alexander Stamboliiski, carried out a number of social reforms which infringed on the interests of monopoly capital but did not undermine the foundations of capitalism. The big bourgeoisie and the monarch overthrew the government by means of a fascist coup d'état in June 1923, assassinated Prime Minister Alexander Stamboliiski and started a reign of terror in the country against agrarians and communists.

In the September 1923 anti-fascist uprising organized by the Communist Party communists and agrarians fought shoulder to shoulder, shedding their blood in common. The worker-peasant alliance was cemented in the fire of the uprising. This alliance facilitated the setting up of the Fatherland Front in 1942 and secured the triumph of the people on September 9, 1944.

In the years of people's democracy the Agrarian Union rallied its militant members in alliance with the Communist Party on the principles of a genuine people's socialist democracy.

The official organ of the Bulgarian Agrarian Union is the *Zemedelsko Zname*.

The Agrarian Union has 120,000 members.

b. Public Organizations

The *Fatherland Front (FF)* is the largest mass social and political organization, uniting all anti-fascist, democratic and patriotic forces in Bulgaria. It was established on the initiative of Georgi Dimitrov during the Second World War as a revolutionary movement of the patriotic progressive forces of the masses against fascist tyranny and nazi occupation, for the establishment of a people's democratic rule. Under the people's democratic system the Fatherland Front engages in political, educational and cultural activity among its members, renders assistance to the people's councils and helps the socialist reconstruction of the country.

The official organ of the Fatherland Front is the *Otechestven Front*.

The Fatherland Front has 3,762,537 members.

The Dimitrov Young Communist League

The Dimitrov Young Communist League is a unified, non-party organization of Bulgarian youth founded in 1947 as a result of the unification of the youth organizations: the Young

Workers' League, the Agrarian Youth Union, the Socialist Youth Union, the ZVENO Youth Union, etc. The Dimitrov Young Communist League educates our youth in a spirit of selfless devotion to the country, of fidelity to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, in a spirit of peace, friendship and co-operation with all nations. It secures the active participation of all young people in the construction of socialism.

The Dimitrov Young Communist League is a member of the International Federation of Democratic Youth.

The official organ of the Dimitrov Young Communist League is the *Narodna Mladezh*.

The Dimitrov Young Communist League has 1,161,000 members.

Trade Unions

Trade unions form the largest public and non-party association of industrial and office workers in Bulgaria.

The trade unions are the chief organizer of the working people in the struggle for the fulfilment of the economic plans. They are doing useful work for the political and cultural education of their members and for the improvement of their skill.

The trade unions see to the workers' labour safety, organize their vacations and do their best to improve and meet the working people's social and communal needs, protecting and representing their interests in the collective labour contracts.

The official organ of the trade unions is *Troud*.

The Bulgarian trade unions have 2,416,797 members.

c. Other Mass Organizations

Bulgarian Red Cross, with a membership of 2,033,233;
Bulgarian Union for Physical Education and Sports, with 1,135,683 members;

Bulgarian Hikers' Union with 972,005 members;

National Hunters' and Anglers' Union, with 122,329 members.

Cultural Organizations

Bulgarian Writers' Union, with 295 members;

Union of Bulgarian Journalists, with 2,783 members;

Union of Bulgarian Composers, with 124 members;

Union of Bulgarian Artists, with 703 members;

Union of Bulgarian Scientists, with 3,838 members;

Scientific-Technical Association, with 181,762 members-

Teachers' Union, with 159,763 members.

IV. Economy

Prior to the Second World War, Bulgaria was a poor, typically agricultural country, with backward fragmented farming and an underdeveloped industry.

In the development of its productive forces and per capita production it ranked among the last in Europe. In 1939 the ratio between the volume of industrial and agricultural output was 24.7 : 75.3. Of a total of 3.5 million persons engaged in material production, only 104,388 were to be found in industry, of which 91,185 were regular industrial workers. Industry accounted for a mere 15 per cent of the national income.

Industry in capitalist Bulgaria was characterized by petty enterprises, mainly in light industry, equipped with obsolescent and worn-out machines. The output of the main branches of heavy industry was quite negligible. Per capita output of electric power in 1939 was 42 kWh, that of coal — 352 kg and of cement — 36 kg. Bulgaria's natural resources were not tapped, despite the existence of large ferrous and non-ferrous ore deposits.

The preponderant role played by foreign capital left its fatal imprint on the country's industrial development. It occupied a predominant position in the larger enterprises of the major industrial branches: ore mining, the cement, textile and sugar industries. The dividends and profits extracted from Bulgaria were several times greater than the capital invested. Sapping the vital forces of our country, foreign capital checked its industrial development and reduced it to an agricultural raw materials appendage of its own.

Despite capitalism's penetration into farm production and the widespread system of leasing the land, farming prior to the socialist revolution in 1944 remained typically fragmented and petty. In 1934, the farms owning up to five hectares of land constituted 63.1 per cent of the total. The land was fragmented into some 12 million strips of an average size of 0.35 hectares each. Farms with 10 hectares or less of land were divided into an average of 15 strips and farms with three hectares or less into seven strips.

Under such conditions of petty and highly fragmented farming, the means of production were on the whole most primitive. Mechanization was a rare exception in crop-farming and non-existent in stockbreeding. Thus, in 1944 the land was cultivated with 694,681 ploughs, 149,465 of which were wooden ones, and there were no more than 1,500 tractors in all. Farm machinery was concentrated in the kulak farms. At that time 166,000 families had no farm machinery or transport vehicles and were dependent on the large kulak farms, from which they leased farming implements and draft power. A mere 36,300 hectares of land were irrigated, and chemical fertilizers were unknown or inaccessible to the bulk of the peasants. The exceedingly poor supply of machinery and primitive cultivation of the land acted as a brake on increased production, and the miserable incomes from farming impeded its intensification and the introduction of agrotechnical and zootechnical methods. Owing to the comparatively small arable land area, combined with the poor development of industry, the Bulgarian villages were among the most highly populated in all of Europe. Unemployment, open and concealed, stifled the peasantry and doomed a large part of it to a substandard existence.

Confronted with such a bourgeois heritage, the People's Government had to cope with tremendous difficulties until it finally created conditions for an unprecedented development of the productive forces, the establishment of a socialist industry and the reorganization of agriculture along socialist lines.

The nationalization of industry and banks eliminated capitalists from participation in the economic development of the socialist state, established an absolute predominance of the socialist forms in industry and opened up broad prospects for an expansion of the productive forces.

The principle of planning was introduced in the national economy. The main stress was laid on the establishment of a modern industry, which played a decisive part in the technical reconstruction of all sectors of the economy, and in securing a high rate of expanded reproduction.

In 25 years, socialist Bulgaria radically changed its eco-

conomic aspect and was transformed into an advanced industrial-cum-agricultural nation. Compared with 1939, in 1969 industrial output increased 33 times , while farm output more than doubled.

The ratio between industry and agriculture changed radically in favour of industry.

Ratio between Industrial and Agricultural Production
(in 100 per cent)

Y e a r	1939	1956	1960	1968 ¹
Industry	24.7	67.2	72.5	78.7
Agriculture	75.3	32.8	27.5	21.3

The role played by the different sectors of the economy in the national income has also changed.

Structure of National Income by Sectors²

S e c t o r s	1955	1960	1965	1968
Total:	100	100	100	100
Industry	34	46	45	49
Agriculture	29	31	33	25
Forestry	1	1	1	1
Construction	8	7	7	9
Transport and communications	5	4	4	5
Trade	20	9	8	9
Other sectors	3	2	2	2

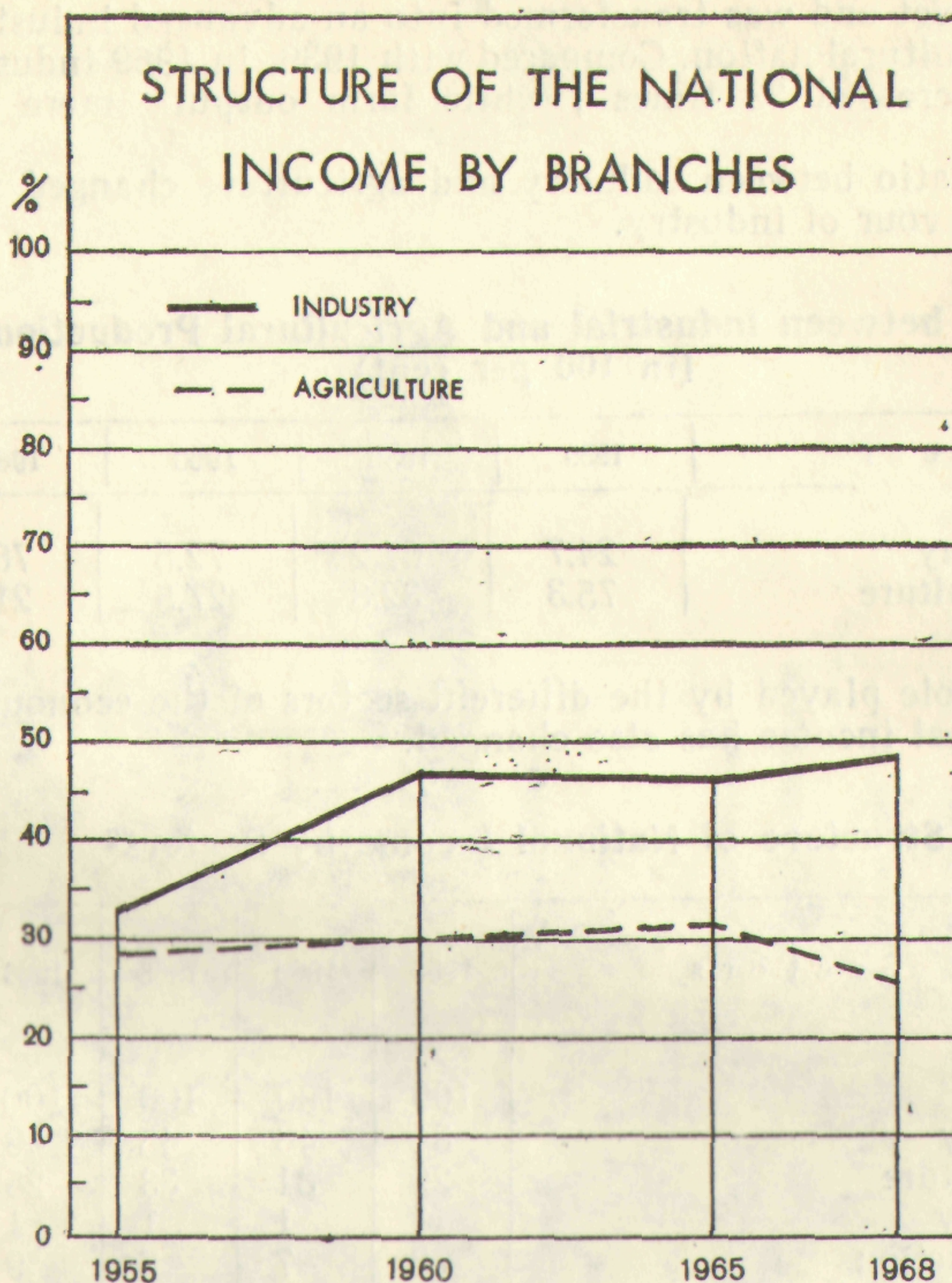
As can be seen from the above table, industry now provides nearly 50 per cent of the national income. Conditions have been created for a steady, even and accelerated increase in all the sectors of the economy.

As the changes in the individual sectors reflect most vividly the growth rate of the nation's productive forces and the so-

¹In prices as of January 1, 1962

²In current prices

◀ *A view of the Petro-chemical Works near Bourgas*



cialist relations of production which have been established, we shall examine in brief the development of the chief sectors of Bulgaria's economy.

1. Industry

The victory of the socialist revolution in Bulgaria created conditions for an accelerated development of its industry.

At present socialist industry produces in 10 days as much as was produced in the whole of 1939. This is the result of the high growth rates of production in the last two decades.

During the First Five-Year Plan (1948-52) the annual growth rate was 20.7 per cent; during the Second Five-Year Plan (1952-57) it was 12.76 per cent; during the Third Five-Year Plan (1958-60) it was 16.25 per cent; during the Fourth Five-Year Plan (1960-65) it was 11.7 per cent, and during the first four years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1966-69) it was 11.4 per cent.

The table below shows the scale and rate of industrial development.

Indices of Industrial Output

E c o n o m i c g r o u p	1948	1956	1960	1969	Annual growth rate (in %) 1949-69
(1939 = 100)					
Total industrial output	203	674	1,200	3,300	14.2
Capital goods (group A)	329	1,400	2,700	8,200	16.5
Consumer goods (group B)	166	468	793	1,900	12.3

As can be seen, the development of industrial production is being implemented on the basis of an increasing output of capital goods. Their annual growth rate in the 1949-69 period was 16.5 per cent, and that of consumer goods — 12.3 per cent.

The table on p. 52 permits us to get an idea of the growth rate of the different branches of industry.

Our information would be incomplete without showing what lies hidden behind the figures on the table on p. 52.

In 1969 Bulgaria produced 17,228 million kWh of power, 31.2 million tons of coal, 3.6 million tons of cement, 1,134,000 tons of pig iron and ferro-alloys, 1,515,000 tons of steel, 36,000 tons of electrolytic copper, 95,000 tons of lead, 76,000 tons of zinc, 812,000 tons of nitrogen fertilizers, and 394,000 tons of phosphates (in kind).

Industrial Output by Branches

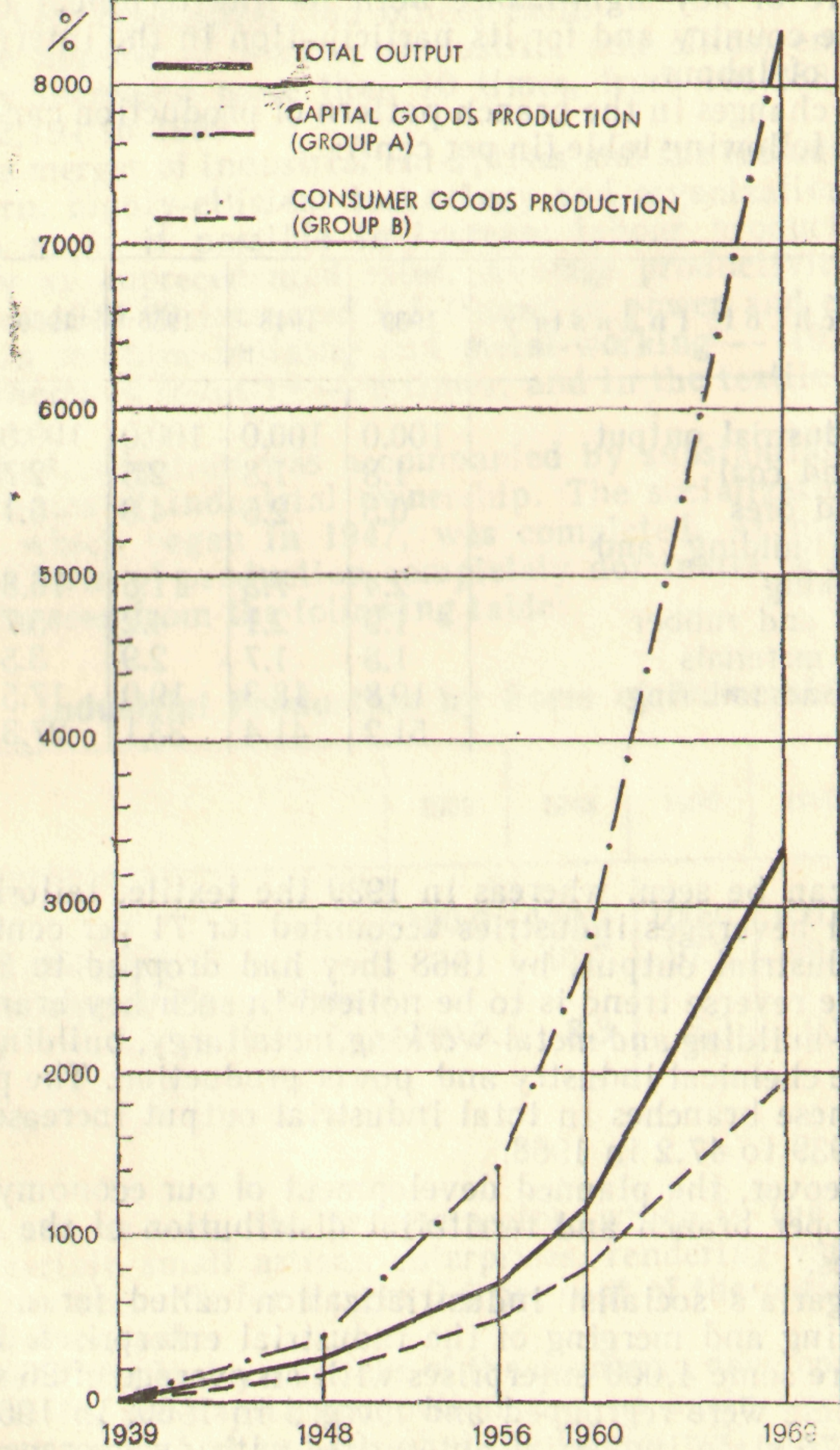
Branch of Industry	1948	1952	1956	1963	1969
(1939 = 100)					
Total	203	430	674	12x	33x
Power and fuel	200	490	895	18x	60x
Coal mining	184	299	588	766	31x
Ferrous metallurgy (incl. ore mining)	56	333	25x	53x	352x
Non-ferrous metallurgy (incl. ore mining)	16x	49x	88x	207x	418x
Machine-building and metal-processing	662	18x	32x	86x	369x
Chemical and rubber	220	661	15x	36x	174x
Building materials	190	535	11x	24x	82x
Timber and wood-processing	227	317	421	653	11x
Cellulose and paper	208	325	598	932	31x
Glass, porcelain and faience	325	817	16x	42x	173x
Textile and tailoring	188	405	646	11x	22x
Leather, fur and shoes	275	765	720	12x	27x
Newsprint	165	229	333	471	10x
Food and beverage	164	330	436	654	14x
Other industries	58x	164x	438x	869x	2505x

In the field of machinery, the 1969 output was as follows: 12,783 machine tools, 26,478 electric trucks, 42,454 electric hoists, 42,670 internal combustion engines, 751,459 electric motors, 41,461 motor pumps, 3,100,000 batteries, 1,761 freight cars, 174,384 TV sets, 159,600 radio sets, 118,835 fridges and 140,700 washing machines.

Output figures in the light industry include some 335 million metres of cottons, 25 million metres of woollens, 21 million metres of silks and 15 million pairs of shoes.

As a result of Bulgaria's socialist industrialization, substantial changes were effected in the industrial branch pattern. Machine-building, the chemical and certain other industries, which were in an embryonic stage, have shown a rapid development. The food and textile industries, which under capitalism ranked first in the industrial branch pattern, advanced too,

INDICES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN BULGARIA



though at lower rates. At the same time, entirely new branches sprang up, such as electric power production, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy and other important branches of industry which are of key significance both for the technical building up of the country and for its participation in the international division of labour.

The changes in the branch pattern of production can be seen from the following table (in per cent):

Branch of Industry	1939	1948	1956	1960	1968
Total industrial output	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Power and coal	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	3.2
Metal and ores	0.5	2.5	4.8	6.1	5.6
Machine-building and metal-working	2.4	7.3	11.5	16.8	25.0
Chemical and rubber	1.9	2.1	4.2	5.7	9.5
Building materials	1.8	1.7	2.9	3.5	3.9
Textiles and tailoring	19.8	18.3	19.0	17.5	13.1
Foods	51.2	41.4	33.1	27.3	20.7

As can be seen, whereas in 1939 the textile, tailoring and food and beverages industries accounted for 71 per cent of the total industrial output, by 1968 they had dropped to 33.8 per cent. The reverse trend is to be noticed in such key branches as machine-building and metal-working, metallurgy, building materials, the chemical industry and power production. The percentage of these branches in total industrial output increased from 8.4 in 1939 to 47.2 in 1968.

Moreover, the planned development of our economy makes for a proper branch and territorial distribution of the various industries.

Bulgaria's socialist industrialization called for a radical overhauling and merging of the industrial enterprises. In 1944 there were some 4,000 enterprises with an average of 26 workers each. These were regrouped and merged in 1960. In 1969 there were 1,776 state industrial enterprises with an average of 550 workers (industrial and office) each.

On the basis of voluntary co-operation, the small artisan workshops grew into big socialist enterprises which have nothing

in common with the former establishments, in which work was exceedingly primitive in character and hired labourers were ruthlessly exploited. In 1969 the co-operative industrial enterprises (producer co-operatives) numbered 676 with an average of 186 workers (industrial and office) each.

The number of workers (industrial and office) engaged in industry increased more than 10 times, from 104,388 in 1939 to 1,112,191 in 1969.

The merger of industrial enterprises and the introduction of a modern, highly-efficient technology and organization of production made it possible to increase labour productivity in industry at unprecedented rates. Average productivity in the period of 1949-69 increased 4.1 times; in power and coal — 9 times; in machine-building and metal-working — 10.7 times; in the chemical industry — 6 times; and in the textile industry 3.5 times.

Industrialization was accompanied by substantial changes in the forms of industrial ownership. The socialization of industry, which began in 1947, was completed. At present the socialist form of production completely dominates in industry, as can be seen from the following table:

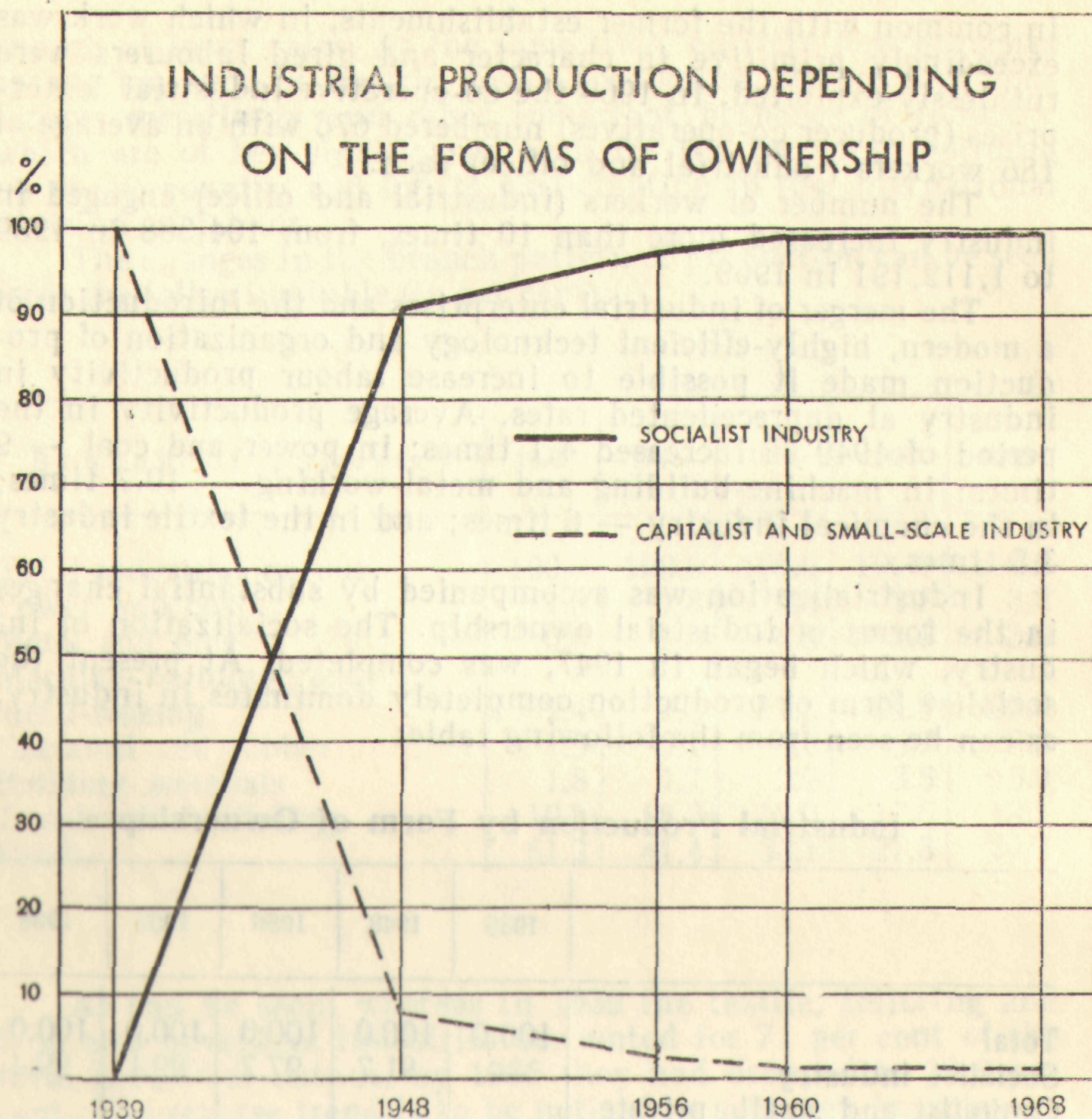
Industrial Production by Form of Ownership

	1939	1948	1956	1960	1968
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Socialist industry	—	91.7	97.7	99.1	99.4
Capitalist and small private industry	100.0	8.3	2.3	0.9	0.6

As can be seen, the private sector, which in the main includes certain small artisan enterprises, rendering various services, now accounts for a mere 0.6 per cent of the nation's total industrial output.

One of the best yardsticks of the economic development of a nation is its per capita production. Let us again resort to the comparative method and see what the figures will tell us.

In 1969 per capita production was 25 times as high as in 1939, including capital goods — 61 times, and consumer goods 14 times. The output of electric power in 1969 was 49 times



greater, of ferrous ores — 61 times, steel — 200 times, non-ferrous metal ores — 24 times, cement — 12 times, and coal — 10 times.

The output of consumer goods is also steadily growing: cottons — 7.4 times, woollens — 3.8 times, tinned goods — 33 times, and sugar — 9.4 times.

The further development and improvement of the country's industrialization constitutes the core of socialist Bulgaria's economic policy. In the further development of industry, the main attention will be focused, first, on ensuring a rapid development of power production, so as to create conditions for technical progress in all the sectors of the economy; second, on

securing a further growth of machine-building, aided by the ever intensified international division of labour and specialization in production as an important factor in steadily increasing the country's economic potential and as a prerequisite for the further reconstruction, mechanization and automation of industry; and third, on the rapid development of the chemical industry and, in particular, of organic synthesis, which will introduce chemization in production on a large scale.

Taking into consideration the steady and high growth rates of industry during the last 25 years, there can be no doubt that this task, which does not call for any greater efforts, will also be fulfilled.

Bulgaria will thus emerge as an advanced industrial nation.

2. Agriculture

One of the most remarkable gains of the socialist revolution in Bulgaria is the reconstruction of agriculture, which was carried out in a comparatively short time with the voluntary participation of the peasants and with remarkable consistency. Bulgaria is the first country after the Soviet Union to have resolved the agrarian problem radically along socialist lines.

The plight to which capitalism had brought the Bulgarian peasants steadily increased their discontent and grievances, and intensified the resistance and fight of the working people in the countryside against the bourgeoisie and its agrarian policy. The Bulgarian peasants, whether they owned the land which they tilled or rented it, came up against the hopeless future of fragmented farming, realized ever more clearly that under capitalism they would be unable to develop and increase production in the majority of the farms, and began to see the vital necessity of introducing radical and fundamental changes in agriculture. That is why they rallied under the banner of the revolution and found it easy to take the further step of carrying that banner forward.

On the eve of the Second World War, despite the resistance of the bourgeoisie, the peasants in dozens of villages organized co-operative farms. A number of these proved quite successful, but were dissolved by the government, while others were forced to discontinue their activities.

After the victory of the socialist revolution in 1944, the government adopted a policy of encouraging the peasants to set up co-operative farms, and introduced a number of measures

which promoted the establishment and further development of co-operative farms. The socialist reconstruction of agriculture became a major state policy.

Alongside the co-operative farms, state farms were also set up on the basis of the existing state experimental stations and nurseries, as well as on lands belonging to the former state land fund.

At the end of 1968 there were 857 co-operative farms in Bulgaria with an average of 3,874 hectares of arable land each, as well as 152 state farms with an average of 4,118 ha of land.

The process of co-operation in farming can be seen from the following table:

Development of Co-operative Farms

	Unit	1948	1955	1958	1964	1968
Co-operative farms	No.	1,100	2,735	3,290	945	857
Households in co-operatives	'000	124	591	1,244	1,076	945
Arable land ¹	'000 ha	176.1	2,345.9	3,761.8	3,672.3	3,320.0
Tractors (reduced to 15 hp ²)	'000	508 ³	932	1,180	37,319	53,202
Large-horned cattle incl. cows and buffalo	"	27	473	796	965	761
cows	"	7	135	216	323	299
Small-horned animals incl. sheep	"	275	2,908	5,347	5,081	4,130
	"	273	2,897	5,305	5,065	4,129
Pigs	"	14	304	860	1,321	1,093
Fowl	"	47	1,789	2,736	5,494	5,580
Co-operative farmers (active workers)	"	×	1,083	1,885	1,345	1,011
Investment funds	'000,000 leva	—	318	481	955	2,213.1

1) Excluding the land left for personal use

2) Tractors owned by the co-operative farms, excluding those of the machine-tractor stations

3) Actual number of tractors

A network of machine-tractor stations (MTS) was set up as state enterprises to service the co-operative farms. In 1959 there were 212 MTS in operation. The merger of the co-operative farms and their economic stabilization created conditions for their purchase of the machines from the MTS. By the end of 1963 almost all machines of the MTS had been bought up by the co-operative farms. As a result, the number of the MTS decreased to 70 in 1968.

Bulgaria became a country of large-scale, mechanized farming. The co-operative farms are socialist enterprises based on the collective labour of the co-operative farmers, who have forever abolished exploitation of man by man.

In accordance with the requirements of the objectively acting economic laws, production on the co-operative farms is organized in a planned manner. Although the land remains the property of the farmers, it has been pooled into large blocks and is jointly cultivated. Under the Co-operative Farm Constitution, individual co-operative farmers are prohibited from selling their land to private farmers. They may, however, sell their land to a fellow co-operative farmer, or to the co-operative farm itself. Thus, the right of ownership over the land is strongly limited, so that capitalist monopoly of private ownership of land no longer exists. The absence of such a monopoly, of any capitalist organization in agriculture, of any exploiting class owning the means of production and of hired labourers, has eliminated the conditions which were instrumental in creating capitalist farm surplus value and capitalist absolute land rent. That is why, the rent which the co-operative farmers originally received for their land, which is pooled under their ownership in the co-operative farm, forms a new category which does not arise from any production relations of exploitation. The rent paid to the co-operative farmers, comes from a certain percentage of the co-operative farm income, derived from the joint labour of the co-operative farmers, which is distributed not according to the work done, but according to the quantity and quality of the land pooled by them in the co-operative farm.

With the development and consolidation of the co-operative farms as socially owned enterprises, as the farmers began to realize from their own experience that their jointly-owned farm-lands are the basic source of their incomes, and that the rent which is paid hinders the farms' development, they gradually decided to reduce the land rentals. By 1961 the payment of a land rent was for all practical purposes abolished. Thus, while in 1951, 22.73 per cent of the total income of the co-operative farms, was distributed in rentals for the use of the land, by 1956

it had dropped to 9.32 per cent and by 1961 to a mere 0.01 per cent. In this way, the main principle in distributing the revenue of the co-operative farms became the socialist one, according to the quantity and quality of work done by the co-operative farmer. The co-operative farms were thus transformed into socialist enterprises of a higher type, and the question of nationalizing the land was practically resolved by the co-operative farmers themselves.

Co-operative farm management is based on the principle of democratic centralism, as adopted in the Model Co-operative Farm Constitution. The supreme managing body is the General Meeting of co-operative farmers, which discusses and decides all fundamental questions connected with production, the finance plan, capital construction and the intensification of farming. The immediate executive management is conducted by the Management Board, which is headed by a Chairman, elected by the General Meeting and responsible to it. The fundamental production units at the co-operative farms, including the stockbreeding farms, are the production teams (complex and specialized). The teams are made up of a number of groups.

A tight organization, high labour discipline and a feeling for comradely mutual assistance and confidence — that is what characterizes the relations among the members of our co-operative farms.

As a result of all this, socialist production relations in the countryside have completely prevailed. By 1969 the socialist (state and co-operative) sector comprised 99.4 per cent of the arable land. Socialist rule in Bulgaria, therefore, is based, both in town and countryside, on the same economic foundation — the joint ownership of the means of production in its two forms: national and co-operative.

To supply farming with a modern material and technical basis, substantial capital investments were made. In the period between 1950 and 1969 some 5,300 million leva were invested in farming. As a result, fixed capital increased sharply, from 1,471 million leva in 1956 to 3,812 million leva in 1968.

A substantial portion of capital investments went for the mechanization of farming. The Bulgarian countryside now has at its disposal scores of thousands of tractors, combine-harvesters, tractor-driven ploughs, seed drills and other farm machines. In 1952 there were 13 hp of machines per 100 hectares of arable land, in 1956 they rose to 27 hp, and in 1968 — to 126 hp.

The manner in which the number of chief farm machines has increased can be seen from the table on p. 61.

As a result, the power capacities in agriculture showed a rapid growth, in particular those of mechanical engines. The

Growth of Chief Farm Machinery

	Dec. 31 1948	Nov. 25 1952	Dec 31 1956	Jan. 1 1966	Jan. 1 1969
Tractors (in 15 hp units)	5,231 ¹	12,295	24,283	66,423	84,011
Combine-harvesters, total	—	1,363	4,118	12,093	15,882
Threshers	5,094	5,855	4,943	2,951	1,212
Tractor-driven ploughs	4,839	10,128	15,260	39,193	45,295
Tractor-driven seed-drills	953	4,517	10,927	22,295	24,047

relative share occupied by draught animals in the total of power resources dropped from 56 per cent in 1952 to 4.6 per cent in 1968, while the percentage of mechanical engines increased from 44.3 to 95.4 correspondingly.

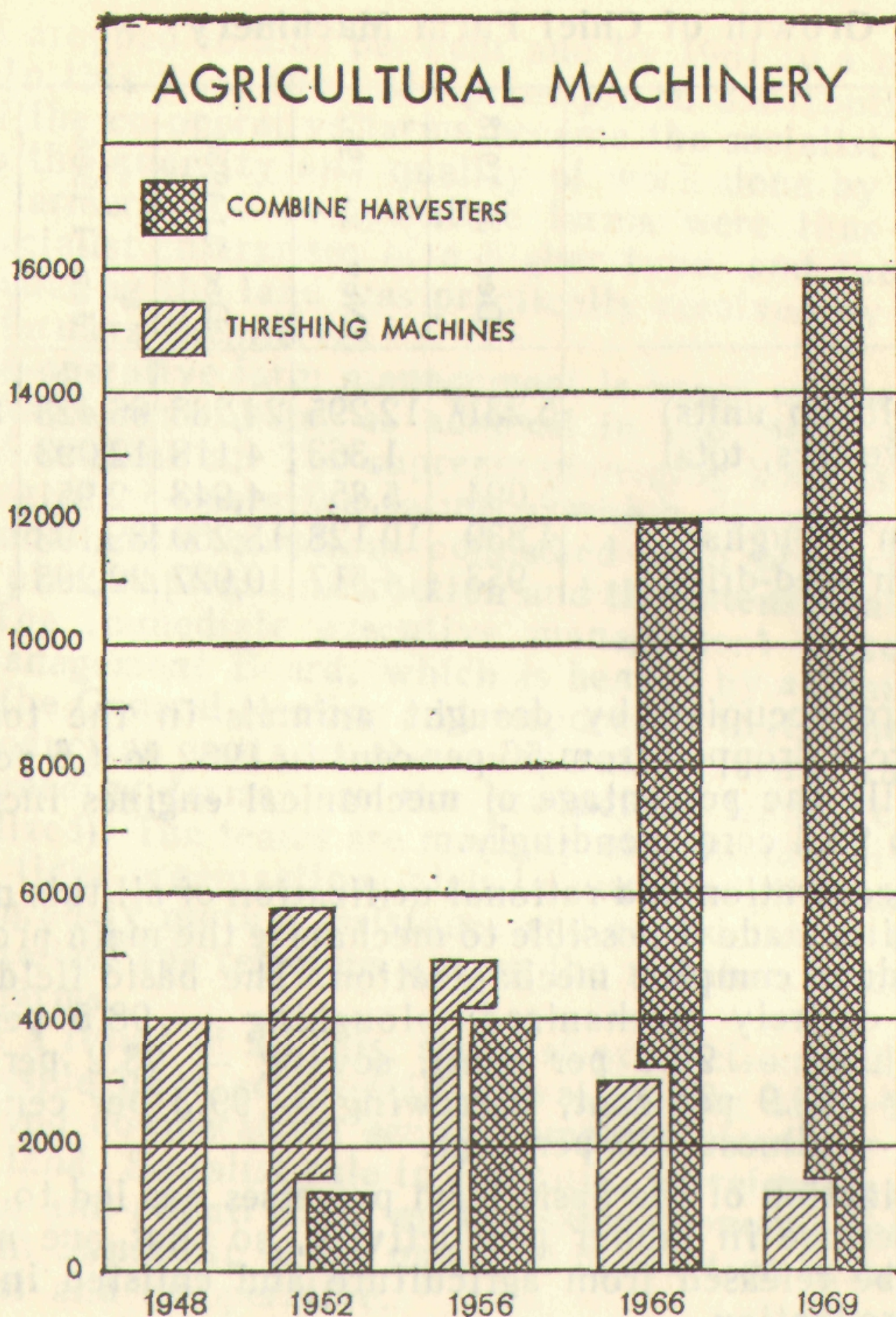
The concentration and rational utilization of all this machinery in farming made it possible to mechanize the main processes and to introduce complex mechanization. The basic field work was almost entirely mechanized: ploughing — 98.5 per cent (deep ploughing — 99.9 per cent), sowing — 98.2 per cent, harvesting — 97.9 per cent, harrowing — 99.3 per cent, and cultivation — almost 100 per cent.

Mechanization of the basic farm processes has led to a considerable increase in labour productivity, so that one million men could be released from agriculture and enlisted in other sectors of production.

The intensification of Bulgarian farming has led to a wide introduction of chemical compounds: mineral fertilizers for feeding the plants, chemical preparations for protecting the plants and farm animals against diseases and pests and for stimulating their growth, weed-killers, medicines, etc. The total amount of fertilizers used in agriculture in 1969 reached 683,548 tons (in active substance), i. e. over 150 times as much as that used in 1948.

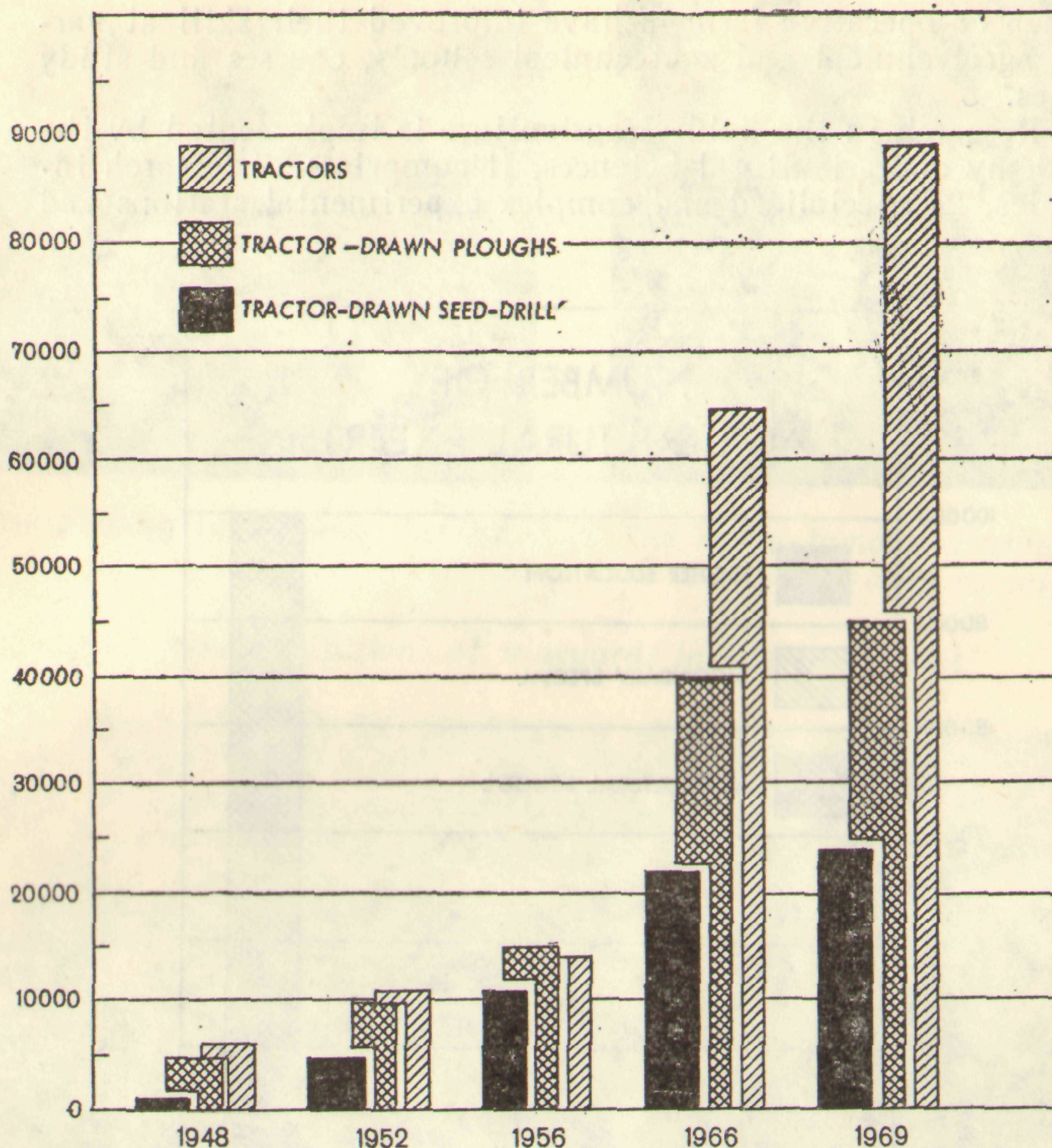
To overcome the adverse consequences of frequent droughts and create conditions for high and steady farm yields, the people's

¹ Actual number



democratic state focused great attention on land improvement. Dozens of big dams, irrigation schemes and pumping stations were built, as well as hundreds of small dams, wells and drills. The irrigated areas were rapidly increased. In 1969 they amounted to about one million hectares as against a mere 36,300 hectares in 1939.

The introduction of advanced scientific methods in agriculture, the systematic improvement of seed varieties and animal breeds helped to improve the quality and increase the profitability of Bulgarian farming.

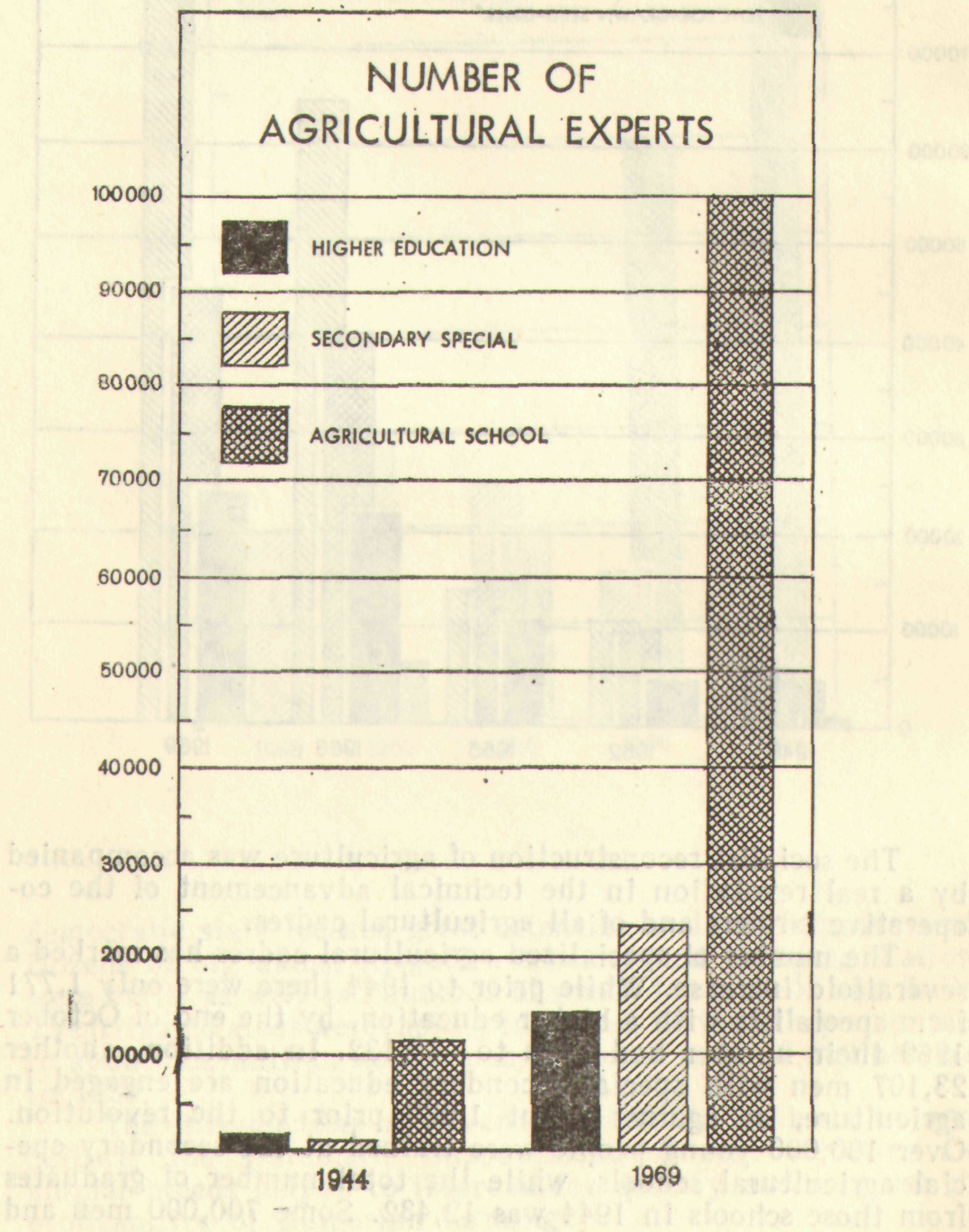


The socialist reconstruction of agriculture was accompanied by a real revolution in the technical advancement of the co-operative farmers and of all agricultural cadres.

The number of specialized agricultural cadres has marked a severalfold increase. While prior to 1944 there were only 1,771 farm specialists with a higher education, by the end of October 1969 their number had risen to 15,132. In addition, another 23,107 men with special secondary education are engaged in agriculture, as against about 1,000 prior to the revolution. Over 100,000 young people were trained at the secondary special agricultural schools, while the total number of graduates from those schools in 1944 was 12,432. Some 700,000 men and

women co-operative farmers have improved their skill at various agrotechnical and zootechnical schools, courses and study circles.

Research in the field of agriculture is implemented by the Academy of Agricultural Sciences. It comprises 27 research institutes, 24 specialized and complex experimental stations and



two central laboratories with a total of 1,204 research workers. This large scientific apparatus is doing varied research work in the field of genetics and agrobiolgy, in extending the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture and in land improvement in agricultural production.

The socio-economic changes effected in farming, the wide use of machinery, chemical fertilizers, irrigation, scientific methods and the application of front-ranking experience have secured substantially higher average farm yields and greater stockbreeding productivity.

In 1969, for instance, 2,453 kg of wheat per hectare were obtained as against 1,310 in 1939; of 4,062 kg of maize as against 1,359, 1,875 of sunflower seed as against 960; 27.7 tons of tomatoes as against 20.5 tons; 28.7 tons of sugar beet as against 17.7 tons. The milk yield per fodder-fed cow increased from 450 litres in 1939 to 2,046 litres in 1967.

As a result of higher yields per unit area and higher productivity per head of farm animal, total agricultural output has substantially increased. This increase can be seen from the table on p. 66.

As a result of the merger and mechanization of agriculture, the increased qualification of farmers and specialists engaged in production, and the better organization and system of labour remuneration, production costs in agriculture were substantially reduced and labour productivity was raised.

In the period of 1952-68, for instance, labour productivity rose 3.8 times. This is a substantial increase. During the period under review the number of men engaged in agriculture dropped by about 1 million, i. e. by one third, while steady employment on the co-operative farms increased by over 60 per cent.

Labour productivity in farming has marked an especially rapid growth during recent years. This is illustrated in the table on p. 67, which shows the spending of labour per 100 kg of produce on the co-operative farms.

The distribution of co-operative farm incomes is effected in such a way as to strengthen and expand the material and technical basis of the co-operative farms, and ever more fully to satisfy the farmers' needs. That is why part of the incomes is set aside for the common needs of society and the development of the co-operative farms, and the remaining part is distributed among the farmers on the basis of the socialist principle according to the quantity and quality of work done.

For the needs of society, for national accumulation, the co-operative farms set aside part of their incomes in the form of a direct income tax. This part, which goes to meet the needs

Indices and Pattern of Total Farm Output

	1932 38	1952	1957	1960	1965	1969
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1932-38 = 100

Total	100	112.3	142.6	172.8	202.2	226.7
Crop-raising	100	118.1	159.2	190.9	214.0	244.7
Stockbreeding	100	103.4	116.9	144.8	184.1	199.0

Pattern

Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Crop-raising	60.7	63.8	67.8	67.0	64.3	65.8
Stockbreeding	39.3	36.2	32.2	33.0	35.7	34.2

of society, is in fact returned to the co-operative farm in which the state makes tremendous investments every year.

After setting aside the part that goes to meet the needs of the state, the remaining part of the income is distributed as follows: about 1/4 for the common needs of the farm, and about 3/4 for individual distribution among the farmers.

The part set aside for common farm needs goes for expanding production, the payment of insurance instalments, for social and cultural undertakings, etc. Some 52 per cent of the public co-operative funds are mainly used for expanding production at the farms.

The basic part, as was already mentioned, is distributed among the farmers according to the quantity and quality of work done.

To guarantee a correct application of the socialist principle of payment, labour norms and rates are being steadily improved, various wage forms are applied so that a better payment for the quantity and quality of work done is secured, and material incentive among co-operative farmers is intensified. Along with the basic payment, at the end of the year the farmers receive additional payments, dependent upon the returns obtained.

As a result of the rising incomes of co-operative farmers, due to steadily rising labour productivity, their real incomes have also steadily increased. In 1952 the total income of a co-operative farmer amounted to 194 leva, in 1956 to 284 leva, in 1960 to 601 leva and in 1968 to 888 leva, i. e. an increase of 4.6 times over 1952.

Spending of Labour per 100 kg of Produce on Co-operative Farms (in man-days)

P r o d u c t s	1958	1960	1965	1968
Wheat	1.47	1.02	0.49	0.45
Barley	1.49	1.04	0.44	0.40
Maize (grain)	2.65	2.02	1.52	1.00
Sunflower seed	3.60	2.70	1.69	0.98
Oriental tobacco	—	72.83	56.55	52.73
Sugar beet	1.04	0.68	0.64	0.37
Tomatoes (second early and late varieties)	—	2.14	1.48	1.61
Grapes for wine	—	4.80	2.61	2.29
Cow milk ¹	3.14	2.57	2.01	1.47
Pork	12.16	8.56	4.91	4.59
Eggs ²	1.77	0.89	0.40	0.33

The guaranteed advance payments received by co-operative farmers are a big gain. A minimum of advance payments has been guaranteed to the farmers every month and certain differences between payment of labour at co-operative farms and at state enterprises have been ironed out, introducing greater stability in the conditions of farmers.

The Guaranteed Minimum Wage Fund is a vivid expression of the type of mutual aid now existing between co-operative farms, and of the efforts of the socialist state to achieve higher social justice and guarantee stable future incomes to all farm workers, as well as their future security.

3. Development of Transport and Communications

As the entire economy, Bulgaria's transport and communications prior to the socialist revolution were exceedingly backward in their development.

The rapid economic progress imperatively demanded an up-to-date system of transport and communications. Transport was entirely concentrated in the hands of the state. A planned and systematic reorganization and development of transport and communications was carried out. Fixed capital in trans-

¹ Per 100 litres

² Per 100

port more than doubled, and the number of industrial and office workers engaged in it increased from 41,000 in 1948 to 187,000 in 1969.

Railway Transport

In the last few years, railway transport has been thoroughly overhauled. The railway network increased from 4,426 km in 1939 to 6,013 km in 1969. The sectors Sofia—Plovdiv and Roussé—Gorna Oryahovitsa—Pleven (a total of 712 km) have been electrified, while the sectors Sofia—Mezdra and Sindel-Varna have been double-tracked.

Rolling stock, which has increased nearly three times as compared with that in 1939, has been supplied with new, more up-to-date passenger and freight cars. The old steam locomotives are being replaced by new electric and diesel locomotives.

All this has made it possible for railway transport successfully, to cope with the country's growing transport needs. In 1969 as compared with 1939, about ten times more freight and over eight times more passengers were transported.

Automobile Transport

State-owned, socialist automobile transport was organized in 1947. At that time, the total network of bus lines amounted to 1,022 km with a personnel of 665. In the past 23 years bus transport increased over 30 times and freight transport 36 times. At present bus lines connect 4,792 towns and villages and service municipal transport in 94 towns. The entire bus network in the country transports an average of over three million people a day. In 1969 buses accounted for the inter-locality transport of 282 million passengers.

Side by side with the increase of bus transport, and with a view to improving it, the highway and road network has been substantially improved and modernized. All highways, of a total length of 29,821 km, have three-layer pavement.

Water Transport

The merchant marine came into being during the past decade, but today Bulgaria already ranks among the maritime nations.

The Bulgarian merchant marine and river fleet comprise 315 vessels; 109 of the sea-going ships are freighters, with a total of 933,000 tons. The Black Sea ports, which have been reconstructed and modernized, are now accessible to large sea-going ships.

In 1969 maritime transport accounted for 12,666,000 tons of cargo as against 173,000 tons in 1948.

In the last few years passenger ships accounted for the transport of an average of over 500,000 passengers a year, as against 29,000 passengers in 1939.

Air Transport

Air transport was created in Bulgaria during the last two decades. Bulgarian air transport now maintains airlines within the country, as well as lines connecting Sofia with Moscow, Paris, London, Berlin, Warsaw, Stockholm, Vienna, Zürich, Algiers, Bucharest, Budapest, Prague, Copenhagen, Athens, Tunis, Casablanca, Istanbul, Beirut, Nicosia, Damascus. In 1969 some 921,000 passengers were transported along the lines maintained by Bulgarian air transport, as against 40,000 in 1952.

Communications

Great attention has been devoted to the development of communications. The telephone, post and radio today reach even the remotest corners of the country.

While in 1944 there were only 1,008 post offices in the whole country, by 1969 their number attained 2,324, while the number of towns and villages serviced by them increased from 2,503 to 5,410. The number of telephone posts has marked a 7.2-fold increase in comparison with 1948.

Prior to 1944 Bulgaria had no radio-receiving stations, while now their length is 70,000 channel km. There were no radio-relay stations, whereas now their number is 1,793, with a total capacity of 500 kW.

The number of broadcasting stations has increased from three in 1939 to 23, with an 11-fold higher capacity. The number of radio-receiving sets jumped from 62,677 in 1939 to 1,553,600 in 1969, which together with the 717,000 receiving units in amplifying systems, satisfy the needs of almost all the nation's families.

Television is a new big gain of the Bulgarian people. Every year another 70,000 families buy TV sets. The television network will cover the whole country in the next years.

4. Trade

Home Trade

After the victory of the socialist revolution, the co-operatives and the state-owned capitalist trading establishments

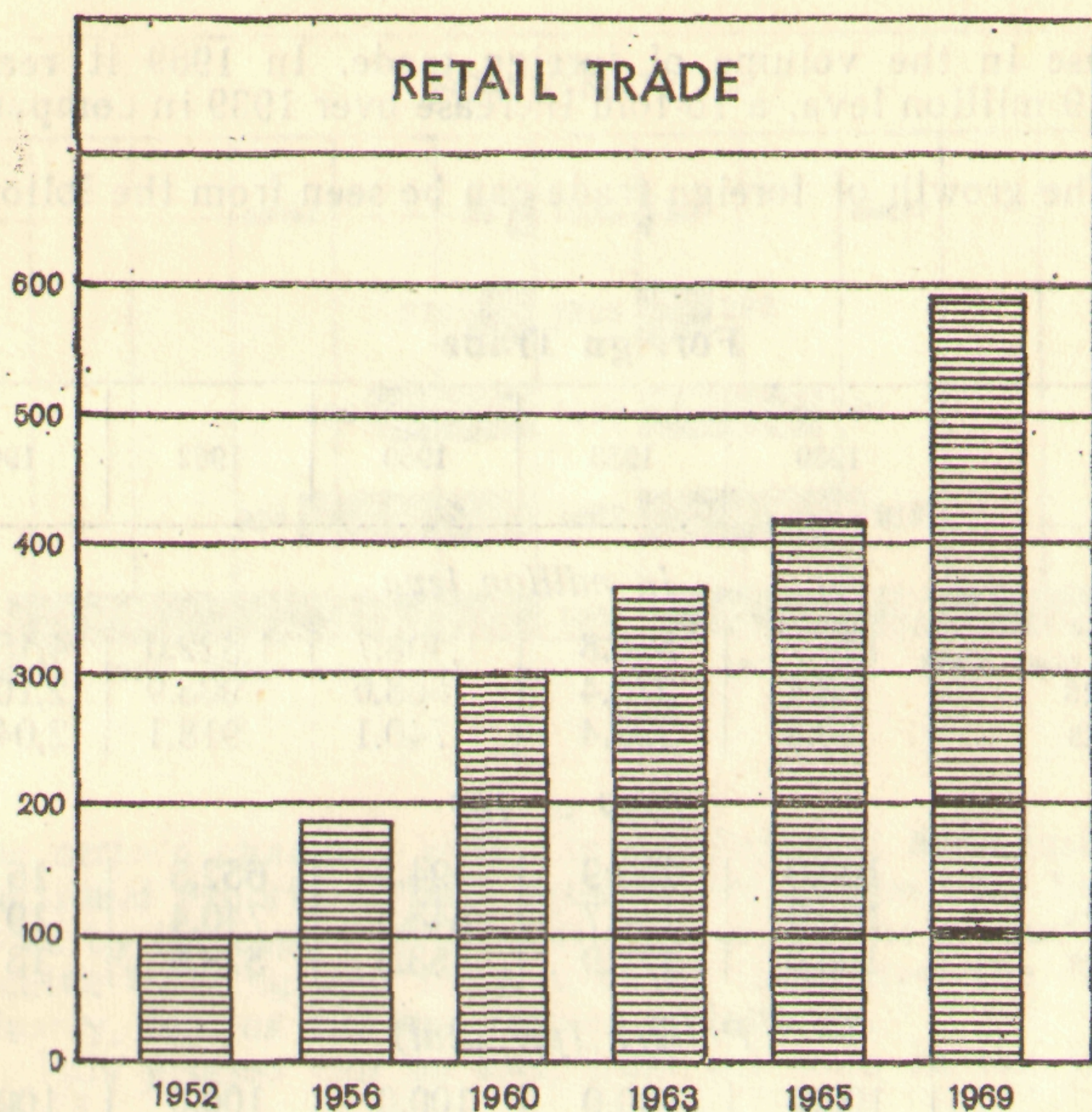
were transformed into enterprises of a socialist type. With the development of socialist production and the constant political and financial support of the state, the state and co-operative sector in trade developed rapidly, displaced the private sector and assumed a dominant position. The measures taken by the People's Democratic Government, aimed at restricting the profits of commercial capital and at wiping out profiteering, were instrumental in achieving this goal. The purchase of and trading in almost all farm produce became a state monopoly, and wholesale trade was almost entirely taken over by the state and co-operative enterprises. All these measures helped to speed up the socialist reconstruction of retail trade. While in 1945 the socialist sector accounted for some 20 per cent of retail trade, by 1952 it was in full control, accounting for 99.3 per cent of the total.

During these years the vast majority of small traders, realizing that small private trade had no bright future and that even under capitalism it had failed to help them amass wealth, came out in favour of socialist relations of production, getting jobs in state-owned and co-operative shops and enterprises. Thus, without resorting to the expropriation of the private retail enterprises, by giving all-round support to the state-owned and co-operative enterprises and restricting private capital in the nation's economy, the socialist sector gained full control over home trade.

Socialist trade successfully serves expanded socialist reproduction, helps to satisfy ever more fully the people's steadily growing needs, the consolidation and expansion of economic relations among the different sectors of the national economy in town and countryside. The profits which it realizes are now used for the benefit of society as a whole.

The systematic and rapid growth of retail trade is an eloquent proof of the great and increasing role played by home trade in the nation's life. In 1969 retail trade turnover was 8.6 times as high as in 1948. The high growth rate of retail trade turnover is seen from the diagram on p. 71.

The progress of retail trade was substantially accelerated by the reconstruction and improvement of the material and technical basis of home trade. A great number of new, large, modern shops and catering establishments was set up. From 1955 to 1959 about 7,000 new shops were opened, of which 4,500 in the villages. In 1969 some 220,348 persons were engaged in trade.



Foreign Trade

In capitalist Bulgaria foreign trade was in the hands of local and foreign capitalists who ruthlessly despoiled the country and made possible its complete subjugation to the foreign monopolies.

That is why the first major undertaking of the socialist state was to establish a *state monopoly* over foreign trade and thus effectively to eliminate all exploiter elements from this important sector.

The nation's rapid economic progress brought about a substantial expansion and consolidation of foreign trade. While in 1939 capitalist Bulgaria traded with 52 countries, socialist Bulgaria now has trade relations with 110 countries in the five continents, with 55 of which it has signed trade agreements.

As a result of Bulgaria's active participation in the international socialist division of labour and the accelerated development of its productive forces, there has been a substantial

increase in the volume of foreign trade. In 1969 it reached 4,153.9 million leva, a 16-fold increase over 1939 in comparable prices.

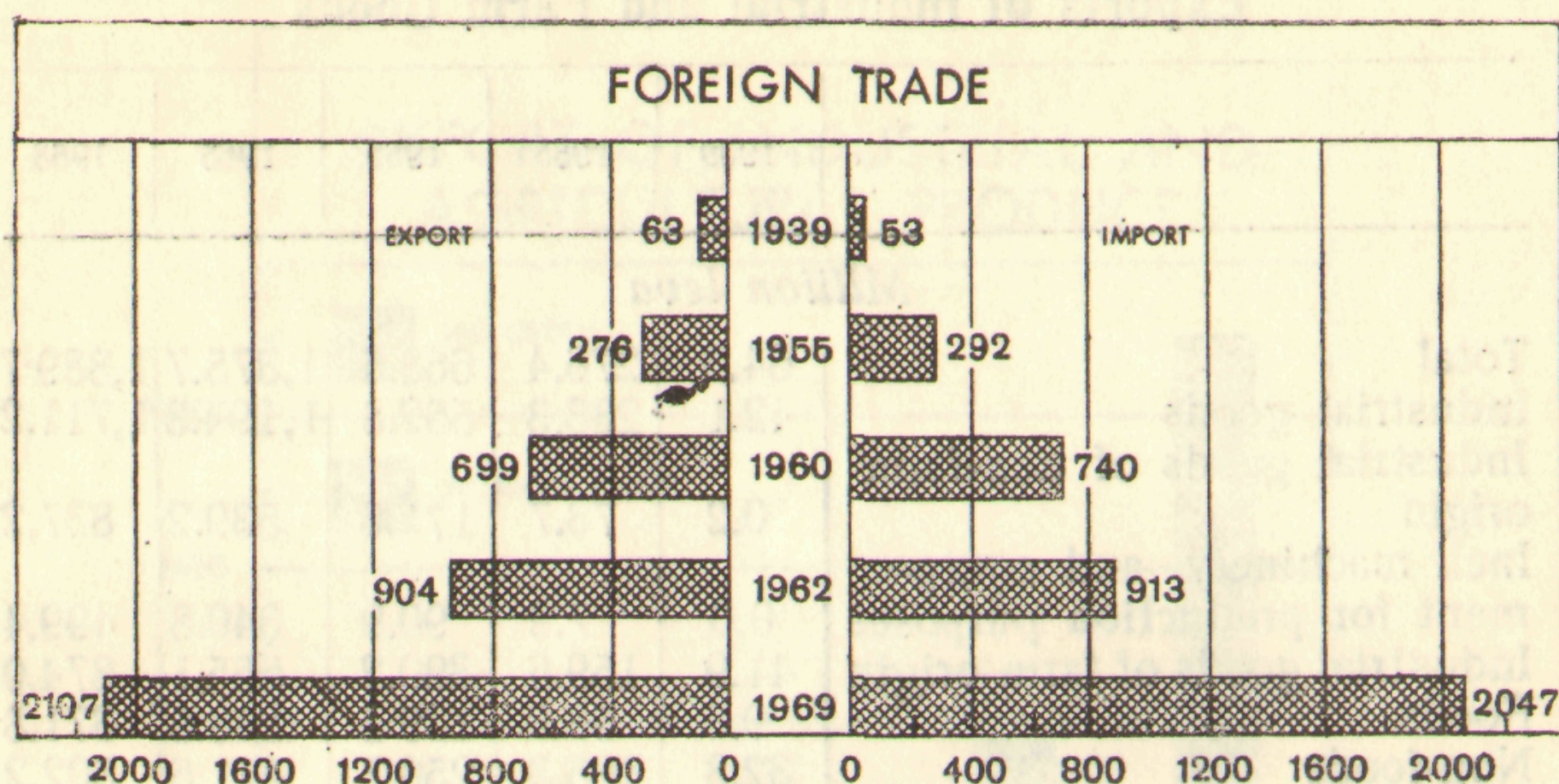
The growth of foreign trade can be seen from the following table:

Foreign Trade					
	1939	1955	1960	1962	1969
<i>In million leva</i>					
Trade	116.7	568.8	1,408.7	1,822.0	4,153.9
Exports	63.4	276.4	668.6	903.9	2,107.2
Imports	53.3	292.4	740.1	918.1	2,046.7
<i>1939 = 100</i>					
Trade	100.0	182.9	494.5	652.5	16 x
Exports	100.0	194.7	543.5	740.4	19 x
Imports	100.0	172.9	453.3	578.5	13 x
<i>Pattern (per cent)</i>					
Trade	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Exports	45.7	48.6	52.2	51.8	54.1
Imports	54.3	51.4	47.8	48.2	45.9

The country's economic development along the road to socialism, the setting up of modern socialist industry, large-scale mechanized and intensive farming, and the development of modern transport and communications has brought about profound changes in the pattern of Bulgarian imports and exports.

A characteristic feature of our imports is the constant increase of industrial goods. Bulgaria imports machines, equipment and complete plant, ferrous metals, textile raw materials and oil products. The import of capital goods has played a decisive role in Bulgaria's rapid industrialization, as well as in the socialist reconstruction of farming and transport.

As a result of the country's industrialization and its specialization in certain fields according to the international division of labour, the pattern of Bulgarian exports has also under-



gone certain changes. With the development of industry, our traditional exports of farm produce are increasingly being replaced by the export of industrial goods, by the products of the machine-building and metal-working industries the chemical industry, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy.

This process can be seen from the data in the table on page 74.

Bulgaria now exports machinery and equipment, products of the chemical industry, of ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, of the electrical, pharmaceutical, building, porcelain and faience and other industries. It builds and exports river and sea-going ships, wagons, tractors, combine-harvesters and threshers.

Bulgaria exports complete plant, the technical and economic indicators of which are in no way inferior to those of other countries.

Bulgaria produces and supplies other countries with the necessary equipment for factories for alcohol, starch, glucose, dextrin and crystalline glue, for the processing and canning of fruit, vegetables and meat and the drying of onions, equipment for reinforced concrete articles, for the production of calcium carbide and ferrosilicon, for transformers, for mines, for ceramic and wood-working enterprises, for refrigerating installations, for hydro-electric power plants, etc. The lockgates and equipment of the Mahardeh Dam in Syria were made in Bulgaria. The list of complex equipment which Bulgaria is in a position to supply to other countries is constantly growing.

The production of foods of farm origin, such as jams and jellies, marmalade and pulps, canned meat and fruit, grape

Exports of Industrial and Farm Goods

	1939	1955	1960	1965	1968
<i>Million leva</i>					
Total	64.3	276.4	668.6	1,375.7	1,889.7
Industrial goods	42.1	233.3	562.8	1,194.3	1,711.2
Industrial goods of non-farm origin	0.2	73.7	172.6	539.2	837.2
Incl. machinery and equipment for production purposes	0.0	7.2	90.9	340.8	499.4
Industrial goods of farm origin	41.9	159.6	390.2	655.1	874.0
Foods	9.6	53.3	139.5	243.5	371.8
Non-foods	32.3	106.3	250.7	411.6	502.2
Unprocessed farm produce	21.3	43.1	205.8	181.4	178.5

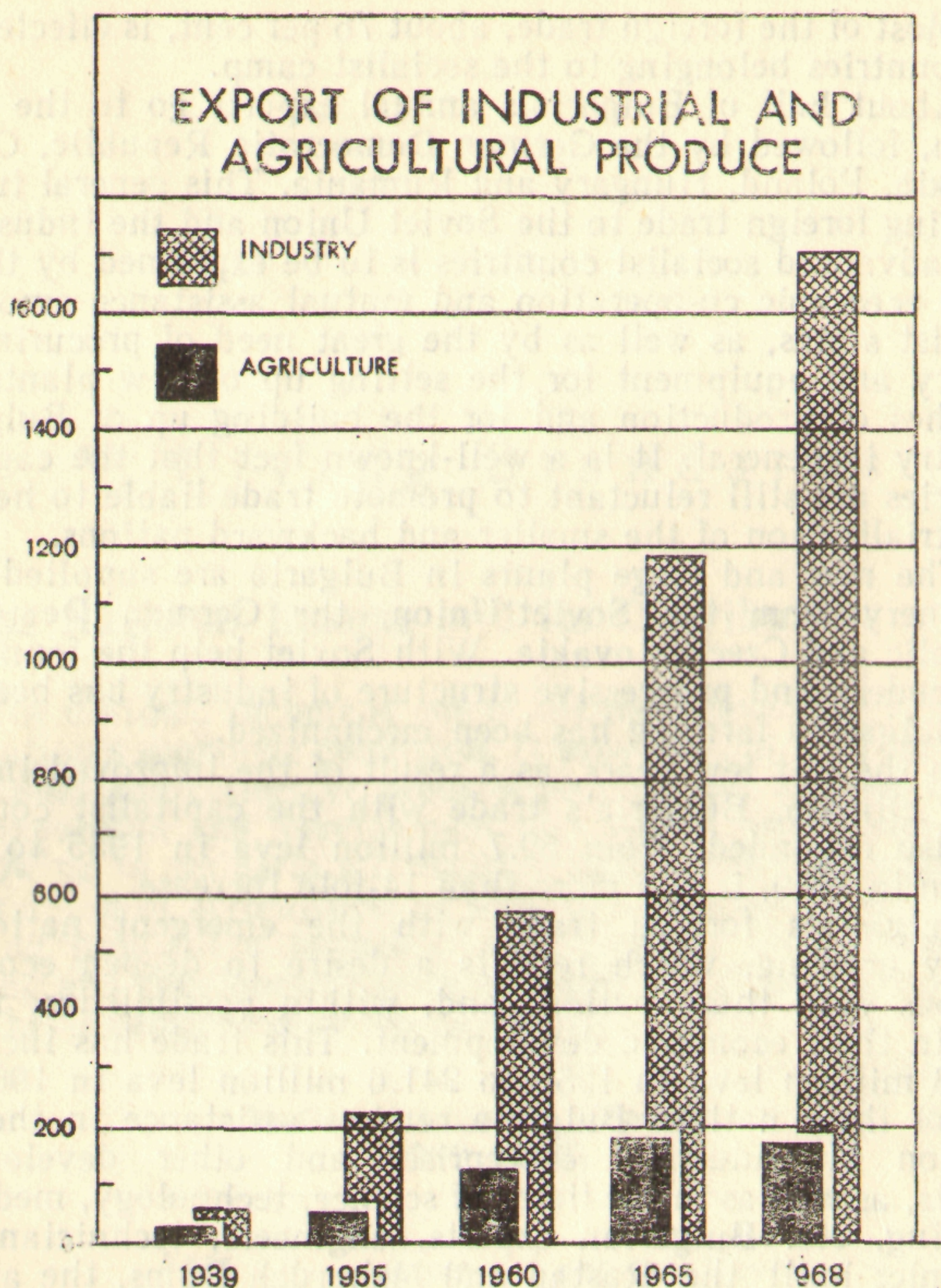
Exports of Industrial and Farm Goods

	1939	1955	1960	1965	1968
<i>Pattern¹</i>					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Industrial goods	62.6	84.4	86.6	89.4	92.7
Industrial goods of non-farm origin	0.4	26.7	25.7	39.8	45.3
Including machinery and equipment for production purposes	—	—	13.2	24.3	24.3
Industrial goods of farm origin	62.2	57.7	60.9	49.6	47.4
Foods	15.5	19.3	22.4	19.2	19.7
Non-foods	46.7	38.4	38.5	30.4	27.7
Unprocessed farm produce	37.4	15.6	13.4	10.6	7.3

wines and fruit juices, cigarettes and other goods is steadily increasing.

At the same time, Bulgaria is one of the foremost exporters of unprocessed farm produce, especially of vegetables and fruit as well as of tobacco, sunflower seed and attar of rose.

¹ Calculated according to comparable prices from 1955



Prior to September 9, 1944, Bulgaria exported practically no fabrics. At present cottons and silks occupy a prominent place in our export list. The gay-coloured Bulgarian Chiprovtsi and Kotel carpets have also made a name for themselves among our export items.

The export list is rich and manifold, and every year varied and high-quality new goods are added, made by the skilled hands of the diligent Bulgarian people.

Bulgaria is averse to any discrimination in trade, to attempts at manipulating it for political ends.

Most of the foreign trade, about 76 per cent, is effected with the countries belonging to the socialist camp.

About half of Bulgaria's annual exports go to the Soviet Union, followed by the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Rumania. This general trend of directing foreign trade to the Soviet Union and the industrially more advanced socialist countries is to be explained by the fraternal economic co-operation and mutual assistance among the socialist states, as well as by the great need of procuring machinery and equipment for the setting up of new plants, new branches of production and for the building up of Bulgaria's industry in general. It is a well-known fact that the capitalist countries are still reluctant to promote trade liable to help the industrialization of the smaller and backward nations.

The new and large plants in Bulgaria are supplied with machinery from the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia. With Soviet help the foundation of a modern and progressive structure of industry has been laid and Bulgarian farming has been mechanized.

In the last few years, as a result of the improved international climate, Bulgaria's trade with the capitalist countries has also expanded: from 59.7 million leva in 1955 to 854.8 million in 1969, i. e. a more than 14-fold increase.

Bulgaria's foreign trade with the emergent nations is rapidly growing, which reflects a desire to deepen economic relations with those nations and, within possibilities, to aid them in their economic development. This trade has increased from 3 million leva in 1950 to 241.6 million leva in 1969. To some of these nations Bulgaria renders assistance in the construction of industrial enterprises and other development projects, as well as in the fields of science, technology, medicine, designing, etc. Bulgarian experts, engineers, technicians and mechanics built the Rastan and Mahardeh Dams, the airfield at Dmer, a 50,000-ton grain silo in Latakia, the Asharneh irrigation scheme in Syria, the Djola-Ula-Derbendi-Han road and the Baghdad airfield in Iraq. A number of towns and villages in Tunisia, Syria and Mali are being built or reconstructed according to Bulgarian designs.

Bulgaria is thus fulfilling its international duty, enabling these countries to overcome their economic backwardness, a legacy from their colonial past.

V. Living Standards

1. The National Income and Its Distribution

The national income is one of the most revealing yardsticks of a nation's economic condition. It provides not only for all the individual and collective needs of society, but also for the further expansion and development of material production.

Owing to Bulgaria's industrialization and the socialist reconstruction of agriculture, as well as to the advance of the remaining productive branches, the national income has been growing and continues to grow at rapid and stable rates.

This is illustrated by the following table:

**National Income Growth
(1939=100)**

Year	National income	Per capita national income
1948	101	89
1952	140	121
1956	179	149
1960	282	226
1963	332	258
1964	364	282
1965	390	299
1966	433	330
1967	474	359
1968	503	378
1969	542	404

Bulgaria's national income increased during the years of socialist construction more than 5.5 times as against 1939. Higher living and cultural standards are determined by the growth of the national income, but they depend directly on the way in which it is distributed and on its final utilization. In 1939, for instance, 72 per cent of the national income produced by industry was appropriated by the Bulgarian bourgeoisie, while a mere 28 per cent was returned to the working class, its actual creator. That is why want and poverty was then the Bulgarian people's lot.

In socialist Bulgaria the national income is divided into accumulation and consumption funds. These two funds do not contradict each other, but are conditioned the one by the other, and mutually affect each other. The accumulation fund is utilized to expand socialist reproduction, while the consumption fund goes to meet the individual and collective needs of society.

About 70.2 per cent of the national income on the average is utilized to meet the direct needs of the population, while the remaining 29.8 per cent goes into the further development of the socialist economy. The annual growth rate of the consumption fund has been about 8.0 per cent.

The increase or diminution of the consumption fund (in general and per head of the population) makes it possible to perceive the prevailing trends in the living and cultural standards, and the extent of the changes. These may be well illustrated by the data on real incomes.

2. Real and Nominal Incomes

The growth of the real incomes of the population in the period of 1953-68 can be seen from the table on p. 79.

As can be seen there, the real incomes of the population in the period between 1953 and 1968 rose at a rapid rate and have increased more than 2.7 times.

The level of the population's real incomes is determined, first of all, by the size of the nominal incomes and the effect of price fluctuations. We shall therefore briefly consider these two factors, which help to elucidate the growth of real incomes.

Real Incomes per Capita

Year	1952 = 100
1953	112.9
1954	119.3
1955	121.8
1956	124.4
1957	140.7
1958	152.4
1959	171.5
1960	178.8
1961	183.8
1962	195.8
1963	204.0
1964	210.0
1965	224.0
1966	244.0
1967	268.0
1968	274.0

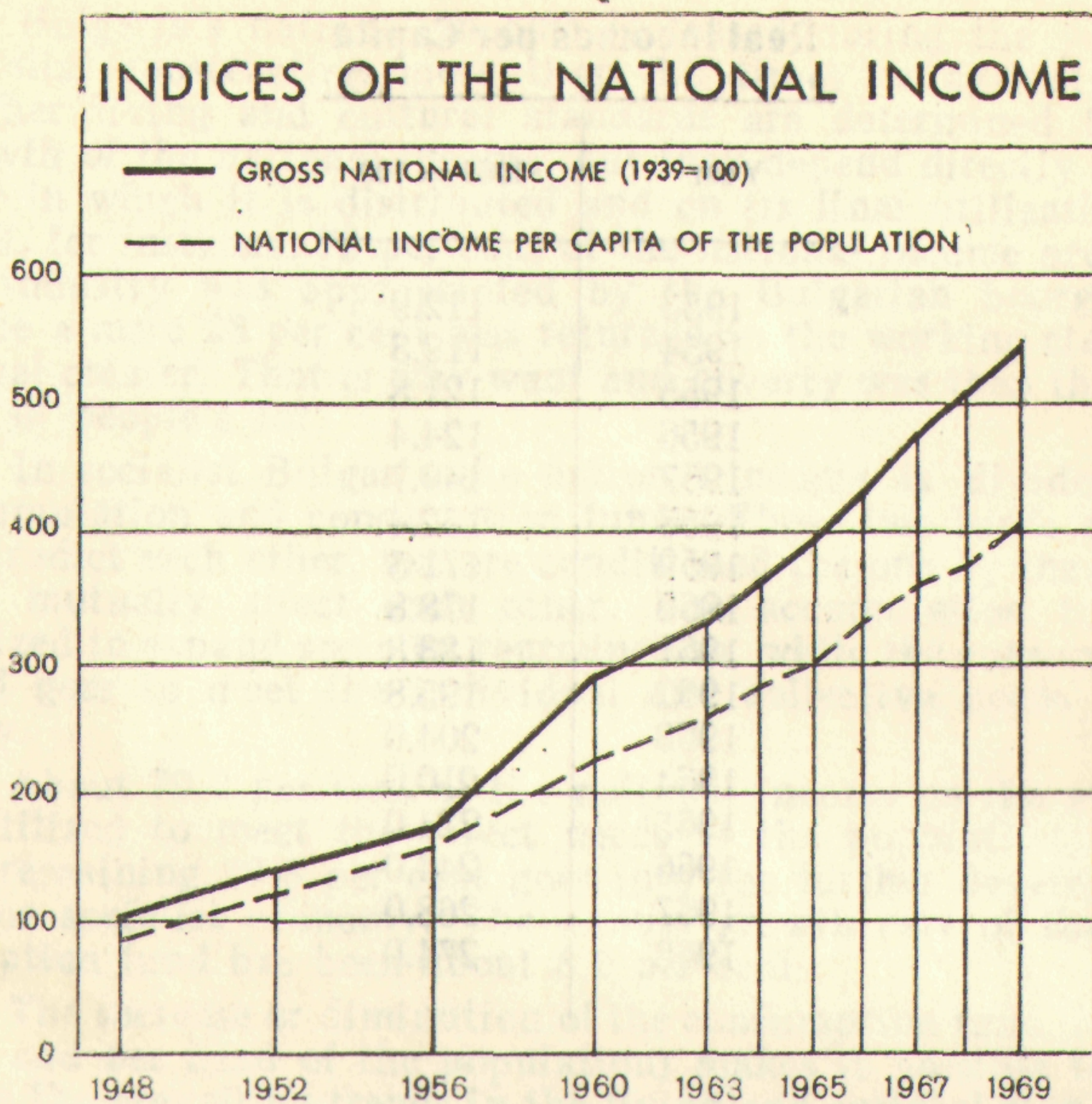
The growth rate of the nominal incomes of the population is shown in the table on p. 81.

The data show that the nominal incomes of the population are growing quickly, although not at the same rate as the real incomes.

The basic sources from which the population's nominal incomes are derived are wages and salaries, and the labour remuneration at the co-operative farms.

In 1969 the average annual wages of industrial and office workers amounted to 1,402 leva, as against 778 leva in 1956 and 485 leva in 1948.

It should be noted that the increase in wages during the last few years affected primarily the low-income brackets. This led to major changes in the wage pattern, from the viewpoint of their rates. In 1957 the monthly wages of some 46 per cent of industrial and office workers were 60 leva or below, while by July 1968, their number had dropped to 3.6 per cent.



In 1968 the average income of a co-operative farmer engaged in production, excluding the income from his personal plot, amounted to 888 leva, as against 284 leva in 1956, and plus the income from his personal plot it was over 1,000 leva.

Price changes have a substantial effect on the real incomes of the population.

The trends in price changes and their influence on real incomes is apparent from the following table:

Retail Prices and Real Incomes

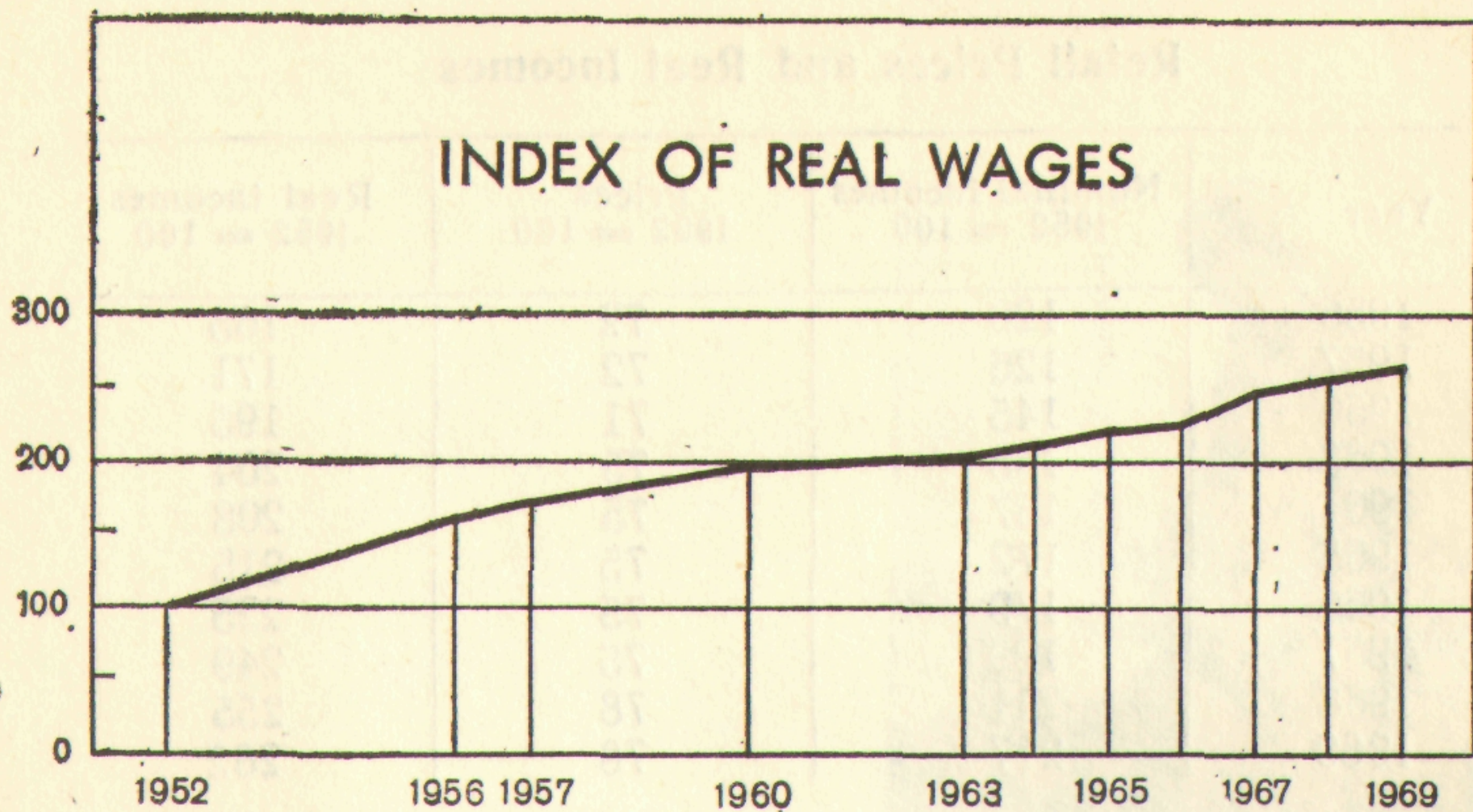
Year	Nominal incomes 1952 = 100	Prices 1952 = 100	Real incomes 1952 = 100
1956	120	72	165
1957	126	72	171
1960	145	71	195
1963	163	75	204
1964	167	75	208
1965	172	75	215
1966	179	75	225
1967	199	75	249
1968	211	78	255
1969	217	78	262

The table shows that the price index in 1969 was 22 points lower in comparison with 1952, while the real incomes index rose by 155 points in the same period. This is due, on the one hand,

Nominal Incomes per Capita

1952 = 100

Year	Total population	Industrial and office workers and co-op. craftsmen	Farmers
1953	105.3	111.6	101.7
1954	100.2	114.0	90.6
1955	99.2	115.0	86.8
1956	95.2	118.2	78.6
1957	107.1	125.7	93.1
1958	118.3	128.7	111.8
1959	131.4	138.9	123.9
1960	140.3	157.1	124.7
1961	148.0	166.8	129.7
1962	163.7	174.1	154.9
1963	175.9	179.8	175.4
1964	182.2	187.5	175.4
1965	194.3	191.3	196.8
1966	211.1	206.4	212.3
1967	233.0	232.0	226.9
1968	254.3	255.2	241.8



to the policy of reducing retail prices of goods and services and, on the other, to the rise in nominal wages, the index of which increased by 111 points in 1969, as against 1952. This policy has been and will continue to be an important factor in increasing the real incomes of the population.

It is a well-known fact that the stability of the monetary unit and its purchasing power provides one of the basic economic yardsticks for measuring the pulse of a nation's economy. If the purchasing power of the lev in 1952 is taken as 100, in 1967 it was 133. This means that in 1967 goods could be purchased for 100 leva which would have cost 133 leva in 1952.

The steady reduction of family budget expenses on taxes, rent and various social services all tend to increase the real incomes of the working people. Today, industrial and office workers earning up to 50 leva monthly pay no income tax, while the remaining pay minimum taxes.

A total of 4.8 per cent of the average family budget is spent on taxis and duties, and 1.6 per cent on rent. The facts speak for themselves.

Savings, which have increased 16.4 times during the period of 1952-69 furnish striking proof of the growth of the working people's real incomes. During the same period, the savings of co-operative farmers and their families increased 6.7 times over.

3. Growth of Consumption

The level and pattern of consumption provide a screen on which the prosperity of the people is most fully reflected. Consumption indicates the real benefits and productive services enjoyed by the working people in exchange for their incomes, and what proportion of the income is spent on meeting their basic needs.

The growth of expenditure, which exactly measures the change in the volume of goods and services available to the people is a proof of the steady rise in the volume of consumption.

Family Budget Expenditure¹
Family Budget 1953=100

Y e a r	Industrial workers	Office workers	Co-operative farmers
1954	113.4	117.8	124.6
1955	126.6	125.1	128.3
1956	135.3	142.3	134.7
1957	149.8	148.5	151.8
1958	157.8	161.4	186.2
1959	169.4	168.8	198.1
1960	178.0	176.3	195.4
1961	187.4	188.2	204.6

Average per capita expenditures in the observed families
1962 = 100

Y e a r	Industrial workers	Office workers	Co-operative farmers
1963	105.6	101.9	121.2
1964	108.5	105.5	122.2
1965	116.9	114.9	137.8
1966	123.5	124.7	148.4
1967	138.3	152.8	169.5
1968	151.8	151.3	184.1

¹ While the 1953 indexes are based on observations of families of office and industrial workers, those of 1962 are based on the new system from all sectors of the nation's economy. The data, therefore, are not comparable.

It is apparent that in 1961 a family was able to purchase about twice the amount of goods and services that it did in 1953. The population expenditure for consumer goods and services increased 57.0 per cent in 1968 as compared with 1962. This extremely rapid growth rate of consumption corresponds both to the rise in real incomes and to the data on the increased retail trade turnover, which more than trebled during the period under review.

The population's growing consumption is also illustrated by the data on the consumption of various kinds of foods and non-foods. This is evident from the following table on the average consumption of the main foods and non-foods.¹

P r o d u c t	Unit	Average per capita consumption		
		1952	1968	1952=100
Rice	kg	1.7	3.9	229.4
Meat, incl. meat products	"	21.3	41.9	196.7
Vegetable and animal fats	"	9.3	16.5	177.4
Milk, incl. dairy products (3.5% fat content)	litre	80.2	112.6	140.4
Eggs	no.	68	111	163.2
Sugar, incl. confectionery	kg	6.5	29.6	455.4
Fresh grapes	"	13.9	31.2	224.5
Fresh and processed fruit	"	91.8	151.9	165.5
Fresh and processed vegetables	"	89.5	87.6	112.4
Cottons	metre ²	22.3	19.3	259.3
Woollens	"	3.6	3.6	211.8
Silks	"	2.8	2.4	933.3
Footwear (excl. rubber)	pair	1.6	1.5	533.3

¹ Data covers the nation's entire population and are calculated by balance method.

The data quoted so far show convincingly enough that in the entire period of socialist construction the consumption of foods, as well as of non-foods, has systematically increased and improved in quality, on the basis of the manyfold increase of the country's productive capacities and of the working people's growing purchasing power.

4. Social Consumption Funds

No true idea of the growing prosperity of the Bulgarian people can be obtained unless the steadily expanding social consumption funds which play a part in determining the real incomes of the population are taken into consideration. The social funds are that part of the consumption fund, by means of which the state finances social welfare and cultural undertakings, maintains institutes and government offices, and provides all kinds of services to the population, thereby improving its living and cultural standards.

The social consumption funds are rapidly growing and assuming an ever greater role in individual incomes. This is apparent from the following table:

Social Consumption Funds

Y e a r	1952 = 100
1956	146
1960	282
1963	389
1964	406
1965	436
1966	481
1967	563
1968	690

The social consumption funds go to meet the needs of public health and childcare, social insurance, free education and cultural undertakings.

The distribution of these funds can be seen from the following table:

Expenditures on social and cultural undertakings

Year	1952	1956	1960	1962	1968
Total (in million leva)	277.8	406.6	640.0	744.0	1291.3
Education	106.9	146.4	213.0	245.0	343.1
Science, art and culture	21.4	41.9	61.1	54.3	98.7
Public health	57.8	91.7	124.4	139.4	229.9
Social insurance, pensions, grants, etc.	91.7	126.6	241.5	305.3	619.6

5. Public Health

Medical services are free in Bulgaria. The socialist state develops an extensive and complete system of measures for the preservation and steady improvement of the people's health, and secures free medical aid for the entire population.

Owing to the considerable sums invested in public health, extensive, up-to-date and well-equipped medical services have been organized, with a steadily growing number of hospital and sanatorium beds. Here is what the figures have to show in this respect:

Hospital and Sanatorium Beds

	Unit	1939	1952	1956	1960	1965	1969
Total	'000	12.1	37.0	46.9	56.8	69.7	70.5
of which:							
hospital beds	"	10.6	31.0	38.3	44.3	53.7	54.5
sanatorium beds	"	1.5	6.0	8.6	12.5	16.0	15.9
Beds per 10,000 inhabitants		19	51	61	72	85	92
of which:							
in hospitals		17	43	50	56	65	73
in sanatoria		2	8	11	16	20	19

As the table shows, the total number of beds in health institutions (hospitals and sanatoria) in 1969 was 5.8 times as high as in 1939, while their number per 10,000 inhabitants has quintupled.

Free medical services are secured by a highly qualified staff in Bulgaria, which is continuously being reinforced by the influx of new cadres, trained at the Bulgarian higher and special medical institutes.

This is how the medical personnel has expanded:

Composition of Medical Staff¹

	At the end of:						
	1939	1951	1956	1960	1964	1965	1969
Doctors	3,127	6,357	9,271	11,051	13,260	13,593	15,338
Dentists	1,206	1,785	2,085	2,393	2,877	2,882	3,125
Assistant doctors	1,190	536	1,567	2,865	3,901	4,161	4,877
Midwives	918	1,650	2,174	3,364	4,409	4,529	5,601
Nurses	462	4,574	8,574	12,502	17,423	19,026	24,050

Per 10,000 inhabitants

Doctors		5		9		12		14		16		17		18
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As is apparent from the above data, in 1969 the population was serviced by over 4.9 times as many doctors as in 1939, as well as by 2.6 times more dentists and 52.1 times more trained nurses.

Bulgaria occupies one of the leading places in the world in the per capita number of public health workers and public health institutions.

The medical industry is also developing at rapid rates. Bulgaria's chemico-pharmaceutical factories now produce over 400 different drugs and preparations, while the plant for medical equipment supplies hospitals, out-patient clinics and other health institutions with the most up-to-date medical instruments, apparatus and equipment.

¹ Exct medical personnel working abroad.

Many efficacious new drugs and preparations are now produced at home; the needs of Bulgarian citizens are thus met, leaving a substantial surplus for export to more than 30 countries. Bulgaria is the only country in the world to produce an efficacious preparation for the treatment of polio after-effects.

Owing to the changes which have taken place in the life and habits of the Bulgarian people under socialism, and to the vastly improved health services, the mortality rate has fallen considerably and longevity has increased.

In the period from 1939 to 1969 the mortality rate fell from 13.4 per mille to 9.5, and infant mortality up to the age of one year — from 138.9 per thousand newborn babies to 30.5.

Average longevity has increased from 52 years in the 1935-39 period to 71 years.

6. Vacations and Leisure

Particular attention is paid to the working people's leisure which maintains their physical fitness and raises their efficiency and capacity to work. The right to rest in Bulgaria is not only proclaimed by the Constitution, but also secured by means of annual paid vacations and a very extensive system of holiday houses, balneosanatoria, climatic stations, various clubs, etc. In the last decade vacations and leisure have developed to the level of a social service of national proportions. Trade unions are directly in charge.

In 1969 there were 938 holiday houses with 62,490 beds and 1,400 young Pioneer and international youth camps. Every year some 600,000 persons spend their holidays in them.

Vacations and spa treatment are subsidized by the state through the social insurance budget. The sums allocated to this end cover about 70 per cent of the vacation cost. The remainder is covered by spa taxes and other revenue. The price of the different kinds of vacation cards constitutes from 30 to 50 per cent of the actual cost of vacationing. One tenth of the cards for spa treatment or vacations are distributed free by the trade unions to front-rankers in socialist production, bearers of labour distinctions, and invalids of the Patriotic War. The vacationing and leisure system created in Bulgaria not only keeps the working people fit, but indirectly raises their income by cutting to the minimum their expenditures on that important item.

7. Social Insurance

Bulgaria is one of the few countries in the world to have adopted an all-encompassing and most humane social and labour legislation. All categories of working people, in town and country, are covered by its pension schemes.

Social insurance pensions and various grants are met from funds of the state and co-operative enterprises, while those for office workers are provided by the state budget. In recent years pensions have been raised, and the pension schemes improved, as a result of which considerable funds were provided for the population, which increased the nominal and real income of persons with total or partial, permanent or temporary disability.

The average annual pension has quintupled during the 1952-69 period. The smallest pension for years of service now is 40 leva a month.

The system of pensioning has been improved and simplified. The retirement age is considerably lower in Bulgaria than in a number of advanced capitalist countries. According to the nature and particular conditions of work, the Act recognizes three categories of work in respect to pension rates: the first category are pensioned after 15 years of service and at the age of 50 for men and 45 for women; the second category — after 20 years of service and the age of 55 for men and 50 for women; and the third category — after 25 years of service and at the age of 60 for men and after 20 years of service and at the age of 55 for women.

The pension of an industrial and office worker is from 55 to 85 per cent of the average monthly wage received during three self-selected consecutive years of the last ten years of labour activity.

Bulgaria was the first country in the world to introduce pensions for agricultural workers.

The new system of pensioning has led not only to a rise in pensions, but also to a considerable increase in the number of pensioners. This process is illustrated by the table on p. 90.

Every year the amount paid for other social insurances goes up — cash compensations for temporary disability, for sickness, accidents, pregnancy and birth, as well as various grants — single grants to mothers, family allowances for children, grants to invalids, orphans and children who have lost one parent, disabled and solitary old people, and many more. The expenditure on grants grows more rapidly than that on pensions. In the period of 1952-69 it increased over 16 times.

Number and Extent of Pensions Paid

	Unit	1952	1956	1960	1962	1965	1969
Number of pensions on December 31 of these for farmers	'000	794	798	1,184	1,340	1,538	1,676
Amount of pensions paid of these to farmers	•	582	574	851	941	1,046	—
	'000,000 leva	67.3	80.3	207.2	280.2	380.3	720.3
	•	22.4	13.8	74.7	112.3	139.7	—

It cannot be otherwise, for all the nation's wealth is public property, and grants do not offend a man's dignity because the wealth belongs to him.

8. Care for Children and Mothers

Childcare and mothercare are highly developed in Bulgaria, where the state is greatly interested in the proper rearing and growth of children and in the creation of optimum conditions for women, so that they may take an active part in social, political and economic life.

The physical and mental education of children occupies an important place in the entire social and cultural policy of the socialist state.

The statistical table on p. 91 enables one to judge of the rate of development of the system of children's institutions:

The data show that the number of children cared for in nurseries and kindergartens has increased 26 times.

Nurseries and kindergartens are supported by the social consumption funds. The fees collected from the parents do not even cover 30 per cent of the actual cost per child.

In order further to relieve women's family responsibilities and for the convenience of the working people, an extensive

		1939	1948	1952	1956	1960	1965	1969
Nurseries	Number Places	—	99	306	759	725	1,153	1,047
		—	3,425	8,961	20,920	24,164	42,994	44,144
Kinder-gartens	Number Places	254	3,573	5,216	6,376	6,570	7,914	8,225
		12,859	165,866	253,260	277,969	298,790	362,093	331,000

system of public canteens has been organized at factories, government departments and offices, the running expenses of which are borne by the respective enterprises, i. e. by the state. Those who avail themselves of these services pay for the food at wholesale prices, without being charged for running expenses, etc. The number of canteens in 1969 was 4,247, and they were patronized by about one million people. Public canteens at the places of work are a new factor in increasing the real incomes of the working people in Bulgaria.

Despite the pull of patriarchal customs, Bulgarian peasant women are taking an increasingly smaller part in unproductive kitchen work, because the growing number of public canteens at the co-operative farms are of appreciable assistance to them, as is the system of public bakeries and laundries in the countryside.

By means of all these measures, conditions have been created for Bulgarian women to take their place as full-fledged members of society, active builders of the new life, respected and honoured mothers and companions in the family and in society.

9. Housing Construction and Amenities

Housing under socialism has become an important social and state problem. The state sets aside vast sums for the housing construction which is put in hand all over the country. In the period between 1944 and 1968, the number of dwellings built in Bulgaria totalled 1,266,370, of which 671,568 were in the countryside. This means that over 55 per cent of the houses in Bulgaria are new. Housing construction has left its mark on town and countryside, which are graced by new housing estates, new districts and buildings, and new well-planned streets and squares. New towns have sprung up, such as Dimitrovgrad, which now has over 45,000 inhabitants, and Roudozem (7,900

inhabitants), while scores of others have been completely reconstructed, with double or treble the former number of houses, such as Pernik, Kurdjali, etc.

This vast housing construction was possible because the state made big capital investments, and because co-operative group building, effected by the population with its own means and with considerable assistance from the state, is increasing in scope every year. The new flats are mainly supplied to the working people who pay minimum rents, averaging 4.6 per cent of their monthly salary (or 1.5 per cent of total family expenses), while in 1939 those working people who were fortunate enough to get better lodgings, spent an average of 23 per cent of their monthly salary on rent.

Side by side with the construction of new dwellings, public buildings and other amenities are being erected, and water supply and sewerage systems are being extended.

In 25 years the socialist state has supplied over three times more villages with water than the bourgeoisie did in 66 years. At the end of 1944, 951 villages were supplied with water; by 1969 their number reached 3,521. The number of towns with a sewerage system increased 3.2 times in the same period. In 1969 it was 3,254 km long as against 551 in 1944.

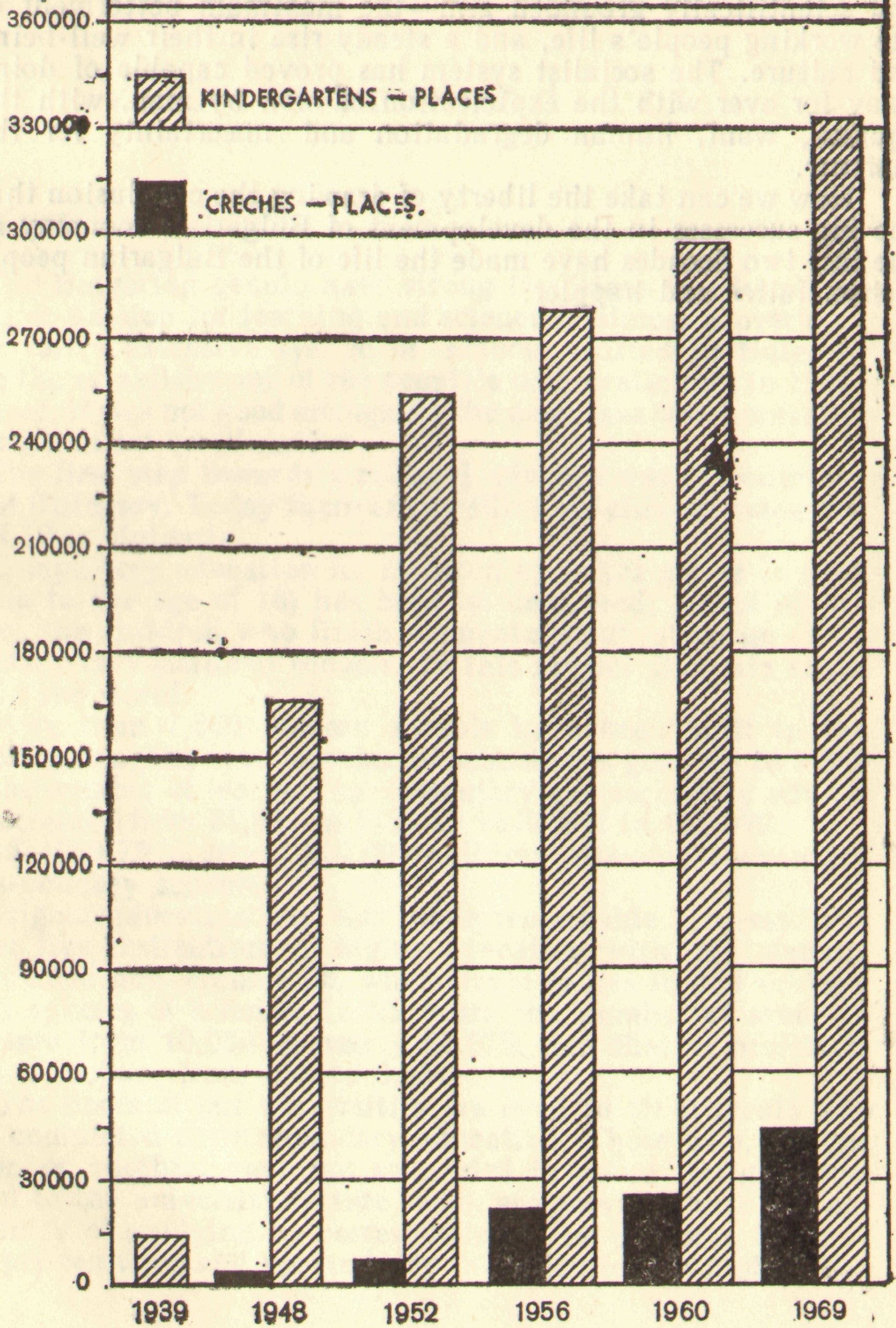
During these years electricity too took its place in people's lives. The victory of the people's revolution in 1944 found only 458 inhabited localities on the electric supply grid, mostly towns and the larger villages around them. On the basis of the rapid development of power production it has become possible to introduce electricity not only into industry, but also into the co-operative farmyard, not only into all the urban houses, but also into the rural ones. In 1969 the number of villages which were joined to the supply grid was 5,298, the total then making about 93.2 per cent of all inhabited localities, in which about 98.9 per cent of the country's population lived.

Every year there is an increase in the number of enterprises for communal services, of public catering establishments and of shops belonging to the state trading system.

The number of hotels and beds in them during this period increased over six times.

A further extension of capital investments for new housing, public buildings and amenities is being envisaged. This will turn the towns into fully planned modern urban centres, while the villages will not be inferior to the towns in comfort and neatness. When all that has been done is compared with what is to be done, it is easy to understand that the springboard for the morrow which is provided by the present-day standards is a promising one.

CRECHES AND KINDERGARTENS



* * *

Bulgaria's historic development after the Second World War has confirmed the fact that only in the conditions of a socialist system can the production and distribution of the material benefits subordinated to what is really the most equitable, humane and scientifically grounded aim—the maximum betterment of the working people's life, and a steady rise in their well-being and culture. The socialist system has proved capable of doing away for ever with the exploitation of man by man, with the squalor, want, human degradation and uncertainty for the morrow.

Now we can take the liberty of drawing the conclusion that the big successes in the development of Bulgaria's economy in the last two decades have made the life of the Bulgarian people richer, fuller and happier.



VI. Culture and Art

1. Education

The Bulgarian people have strong traditions in education, and their passion for learning and science is almost proverbial.

A fairly extensive system of schools existed in Bulgaria before the establishment of the people's democratic rule in 1944. However, it was not good enough for the new tasks which socialist construction set to education.

The first step towards a cultural advance was the elimination of illiteracy. Today there are no illiterate citizens below the age of 50 in Bulgaria.

Compulsory education for children up to the age of 14 (and now up to the age of 16) has been implemented. About 95 per cent of the children who finish elementary education go on to secondary or vocational schools. In this respect Bulgaria ranks first in the world.

More than 1,800 modern schools have been built in the past 25 years. The total number of schools has gone up to 5,359 and the number of teachers in elementary and secondary schools has increased from 31,889 in 1939-40 to 80,681 in 1969-70.

In 1969-70 nearly 1,600,000 children attended elementary and secondary schools.

Higher education has also made remarkable progress. The former five institutions of higher education with ten departments have now become 26, which train cadres in 150 subjects in all spheres of science. In 25 years the number of students increased from 10,000 to nearly 85,675, and that of professors and instructors, from 453 to 6,657.

The doors of our universities are open to all students who have completed their secondary education. Those who, for one reason or another, have not succeeded in going straight from school to the university lecture room, are provided with the opportunity of studying by correspondence. In Bulgaria 101 persons per ten thousand are studying in institutions of higher edu-

cation. As regards the relative number of students, Bulgaria ranks among the first in the world.

About half of the students receive scholarships by the state or by the respective enterprises which have sent them to study.

Today some 1,500 foreign students from 49 countries attend our institutions of higher education.

The system of colleges has also been considerably extended. The former five colleges have grown into 20 and their student body from 803 to 10,031, while the number of teachers has increased from 64 to 534. Teachers for elementary schools and technicians for transport and communications are mostly trained in these colleges.

The statistical table on p. 98 gives an idea of the colossal changes which have taken place in education.

In 25 years of free life, 586,000 persons in small Bulgaria have finished their secondary general education, 424,000 have finished technicums and 402,000 secondary vocational and vocational schools, 62,000 have graduated from the colleges, and 159,000 from the universities. In those years 40,000 engineers, 19,000 experts in agriculture, 29,000 economists, 20,000 doctors, dentists and pharmacologists, 25,000 teachers and other highly qualified specialists have joined the nation's economy.

Of the specialists engaged in the national economy 90 per cent have obtained their higher or special secondary education after 1944.

Education at all levels has become generally accessible and free of charge. All roads to science are open to the youth of Bulgaria.

2. Science

The socialist state has created unprecedented prospects and facilities for the promotion of the branches of science.

Twenty-five years ago the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences was an anemic establishment, a single institute with 16 research assistants. Today the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Agricultural Sciences have 139 research institutes with a total of 6,151 research assistants and a large number of collaborators. Together with the research assistants, engaged in research work at the institutions of higher learning, the number of scientists directly engaged in research work is 11,800. The state allocates substantial funds and shows great concern

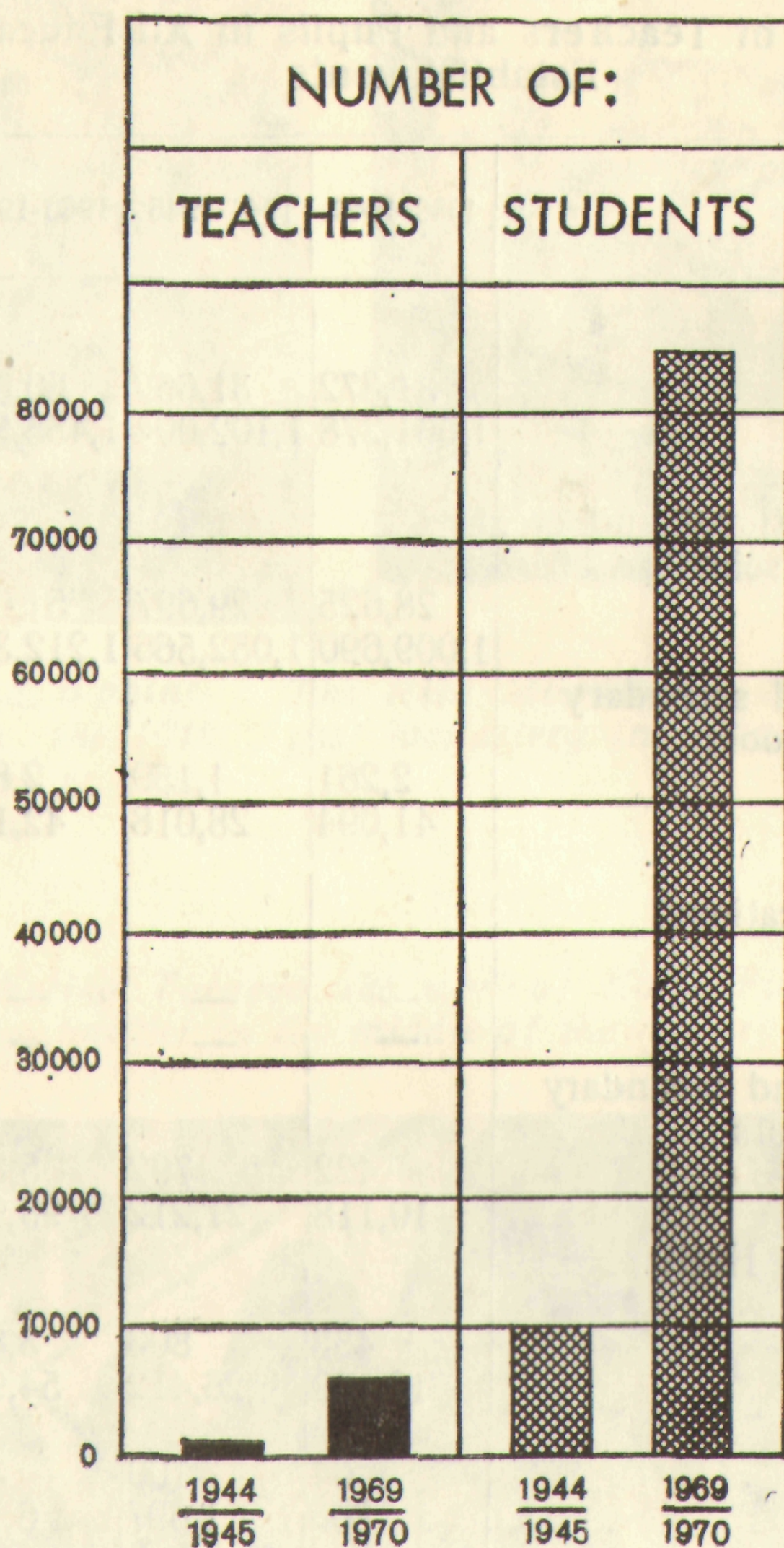
The Bachkovo monastery, built in the 11th century ►

Number of Teachers and Pupils in All Educational Establishments

	1939-1940	1944-1945	1960-1961	1969-1970
Total Teachers and students including:				
General educational and polytechnical schools				
Teachers	31,372	31,662	60,090	80,681
Pupils	1,061,278	1,102,004	1,455,580	1,554,636
Vocational and secondary vocational schools				
Teachers	28,625	29,697	51,067	54,382
Students	1,009,690	1,052,566	1,212,383	1,166,995
including:				
Secondary vocational schools:				
Teachers	—	—	—	4,798
Students	—	—	—	68,163
Technicums and secondary fine arts schools				
Teachers	422	792	5,307	9,233
Students	10,118	21,212	93,944	153,348
Institutions of Higher Education				
Teachers	453	803	3,883	6,657
Students	10,169	26,412	54,965	85,675
Colleges				
Teachers	64	100	360	534
Students	803	1,697	6,187	10,031

for the creation of optimum conditions for the promotion of creative scientific work and for climbing the heights of modern science, which is taking an ever greater part in material production.

Scientific progress in the sphere of chemistry, geology, machine-building, construction, computing techniques, social studies and agricultural science has been considerable.



The work of many Bulgarian scientists has earned them the respect of the people, and the names of some of them have become known far beyond the nation's confines because of their scientific inventions.

Bulgaria is proud of such world famous scientists as the mathematicians Obreshkov and Chakalov, the linguist Vladimir Georgiev, who did much for the deciphering of the Cretan and Mycaenean script, the philosopher Todor Pavlov, the doctor

Paskov, whose Nivalin preparation is the most efficacious drug for the treatment of polio after-effects, the selectionist Hristo Daskalov, and many more.

3. Literature

Bulgarian literature goes back to the distant past, over a 1,000 years ago, when the brothers Cyril and Methodius created the Slav alphabet (855), adapted to the language of the Slav-Bulgarian population in the Balkan Peninsula. The two great educators repudiated the dogmas which had held sway until then, according to which the Bible could only be written and read in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. Culture and literature became accessible to the remaining 'barbarous' peoples, too. With the aid of the Slav-Bulgarian script, the Bulgarian people embarked upon the road of progress. Within a comparatively short time literature and the arts began to flourish. That period (late 9th and early 10th century) is still remembered as the Golden Age in Bulgaria's history. The first literary work which made an impression with its patriotic ardour and artistic quality and the erudition and iron logic of its author was *Of Letters* by Chernorizets Hrabur. The poems of Bishop Constantine, as well as John the Exarch's *Hexameron* are religious in character, but at the time they were of national significance. Both in form and in content they represent an original chronicle of the period.

Despite the ravages of the Byzantine bondage (1018-1186) and the Tartar incursions, the Bulgarian people developed their culture, creating remarkable works of art and literature in the 13th and 14th centuries. The Bulgarian writers Patriarch Evtimi, Grigori Tsamblak and Konstantin Kostenechki produced secular works, dealing with realistic themes and written in an original style. Apocryphal literature flourished in particular. The various 'heretical' tales and legends, which have come down to us, reveal great artistic and ideological value.

The five centuries of Ottoman rule (1396-1878), however, had a disastrous effect on the further development of Bulgarian literature. The folk songs, which were handed down by word of mouth from generation to generation and preserved the national spirit of the Bulgarians, were the only sign of the existence of any form of literary work and ideas in those gloomy days. This folklore became the solid foundation for the further development of Bulgarian literature when the national revolutionary

struggles for liberation from Ottoman tyranny blazed up in the late 18th century.

The literature of the Bulgarian Revival period emerged as an expression of the people's aspirations for freedom. It was profoundly democratic and revolutionary, as it was linked with the vital interests of the people for national and social liberation, and extolled not kings and masters, but the people, who valiantly fought for freedom. Paissii of Hilendar, Sophronii of Vratsa, Neophyte Bozveli, Peter Beron, Georgi Stoikov Rakovski and Lyuben Karavelov were outstanding representatives of the literature of this period. However, the poet and revolutionary Hristo Botev remains the supreme genius of that day.



Patriarch Evtimi

Bulgaria's present-day literature carries on the sound realistic traditions of our classic writers, of Hristo Botev, Ivan Vazov, Aleko Konstantinov, Elin Pelin, Yordan Yovkov, Anton Strashimirov, P. K. Yavorov and a number of other prominent writers of the turn of this century.

The stirring work of Botev inspires and teaches Bulgarian writers to this day. It educates the growing generation in a patriotic and freedom-loving spirit. The remarkable prose and poetry of Ivan Vazov, the dean of Bulgarian letters, is still an inexhaustible source and school for the new generation of Bulgarian writers.

Without this continuity and without the new historical tasks which the country had to solve in the years following World War I, the work of Hristo Smyrnenski, his poetry of social justice and popular revolt against exploitation and tyranny would be difficult to explain; the work of Nikola Vaptsarov would be inexplicable, too, as it is entirely devoted to the revolutionary struggles of the working class for freedom and happiness, against the brutality of fascism and the moral decadence of the bourgeois world. Smyrnenski and Vaptsarov are representatives of the latest trend in Bulgarian literature — socialist realism.

They became a school for the coming generations of writers.

Modern Bulgarian literature is guided by the principle truthfully to express the variety of problems which today agitate our people, who have embarked on the road of socialism and communism.

In the last 25 years the people's creative energy has developed on a broad front. The masses have been drawn into the cultural life, new talents have made their appearance in literature and the other arts; the cultural interest of millions of readers has been aroused. This has further stimulated cultural workers and artists who are guaranteed fine conditions for creative work. And if figures mean anything here, let us note that during the years of people's rule, some 12,000 volumes of literature (children's books included) were published in a total print of about 120 million, quite an achievement for a



Sophronii of Vratsa



Dr Peter Beron

small country like Bulgaria.

In this 25-year period of free life, Bulgarian literature developed along all lines: poetry, fiction, play-writing, script-writing and children's literature, with poetry and fiction in the van.

The Bulgarian novel marked a particularly great advance. While in former days the novel brought up the rear in literature, today it takes one of the foremost places among all literary works. New novels, such as *Ordinary People* by Georgi Karaslavov, *Tobacco* and *Doomed Souls* by Dimiter Dimov, *Ivan Kondarev* by Emilian Stanev, Dimiter Talev's trilogy comprising *The Iron Candlestick*,

The Bells of Prespa and Ilinden, The Village of Vedrovo by Andrei Goulyashki, *Family of Weavers* by Kamen Kalchev, *Earthly Light* and *Republic of the Rains* by S. T. Daskalov, the short novels of Pavel Vezhinov, the stories of Yordan Radichkov and many more are the favourite reading not only of Bulgarian readers, but of thousands of readers abroad, where the works of these authors have been translated and published in large editions.

Following the glorious traditions of the past, Bulgarian poetry has also made remarkable progress. The phalanx of talented poets of present-day Bulgaria is indeed impressive. Here one might mention the names of Elissaveta Bagryana, Nikola Fournadjiev, Hristo Radevski, Valeri Petrov, Vesselin Hanchev, Vesselin Andreyev, Alexander Gerov, Bozhidar Bozhilov, Penyu Penev, Pavel Matev, Georgi Djagarov, Dimiter Methodiev, Ivan Radoev, Ivan Davidkov, Anastas Stoyanov, and a number of other poets whose works stir and inspire thousands of admirers.

The Bulgarian people love and respect not only their writers and poets, but also those of other nations, in particular the world's classics. In the last 24 years 11,000 volumes of translations of world literature were published. In the same period 1,700 Bulgarian titles were translated and published abroad.



Ivan Vazov

4. Book Publishing and the Press

In Bulgaria not only fiction is held in high esteem. People love books in which they will find the wisdom, genius and skill of generations; they love also newspapers and periodicals which inform them about life in our country and far beyond its boundaries. This explains the fact that in a mere 25 years the total

print of published books, the circulation of newspapers and periodicals has surpassed prewar figures severalfold.

Books and Newspapers

	Unit	1939	1957	1960	1962	1969
Books Number		2,169	3,268	3,369	3,387	3,548
Total print Newspapers Number	'000	6,484	24,475	30,244	32,085	36,900
Annual Circulation	'000	513	84	83	626	710
		130,297	545,776	602,813	514,127	750,000

In addition, 780 periodicals with a total annual circulation of 40 million are published today. Bulgaria occupies one of the first places in the world in the number of books and newspapers printed per head of the population.

5. The Theatre

Organized by schoolteachers and educators, the first performances in Bulgaria were presented on the stages of the library clubs in Lom, Svishtov and Shoumen in 1856. The first Bulgarian plays and performances were intended to rouse the national consciousness, the patriotism and resolution of the people to fight against their oppressors, for freedom, independence and social justice. Thus, from its very inception the Bulgarian theatre was placed at the service of the people.

After the country's liberation from Ottoman rule a National Theatre was established in Sofia, and municipal theatres came into being in Plovdiv, Bourgas, and Roussé, as well as several travelling companies. Early this century, alongside with the classics of world literature, plays written by well-known Bulgarian writers and playwrights, such as Ivan Vazov, Petko Todorov, Anton Strashimirov, Peyo K. Yavorov, Stefan Kostov, Yordan Yovkov and Racho Stoyanov were performed at the Bulgarian theatres. Some of these plays are still produced on our stages.

This was the period in which some of the most remarkable Bulgarian actors and producers came to the fore: Sava Ognyanov, Ivan Popov, Vassil Kirkov, Adriana Boudevska, Krustyu Sarafov, Stoyan Buchvarov and Hristo Ganchev.

Despite fascist obscurantism the Bulgarian theatre preserved its progressive and humanistic character. However, its opportunities and its stages remained restricted and small. There were only 13 dramatic and opera companies on September 9, 1944.

The victory of the socialist revolution unfettered the creative energy of all who worked in the sphere of the theatre. Greatly patronized by the people and generously subsidized by the



Nikola Vaptsarov



Hristo Smyrnenski

state, the Bulgarian theatre was able to make rapid progress. The sums allocated to the theatres by the state today are 30 times greater than those allocated by the bourgeois state.

At present there are 46 state theatres in Bulgaria with a total annual attendance of 4.8 million spectators, as against 1.5 million in 1939.

The greatest gain of the Bulgarian theatre today is the further development of its democratic and realistic traditions and its national character.

Never before has there been such a wealth of themes, characters and ideas for plays. In the last 25 years some 700 new plays by 385 contemporary Bulgarian playwrights were staged, while

in the 40-year period between 1904 and 1944 the respective numbers were 210 and 85.

Plays by Orlin Vassilev, Kamen Zidarov — *Kaloyan*, Lozan Strelkov — *The Man from the File*, Georgi Karaslavov — *A Storm in the Swamp and The Apple Thorn*, Dimiter Dimov — *The Guilty One* and *Holiday in Arco Iris*, Ivan Peichev — *Every Autumn Evening*, Georgi Djagarov — *The Prosecutor* and *The Doors Close*, V. Golev — *The Wonderful Trio*, Ivan Radoev — *The World Is Small*, Valeri Petrov — *When Roses Are Dancing*, Nikolai Haitov — *Paths*, B. Balabanov — *Happiness Never Comes Alone* and many more modern plays and dramas are constantly on the repertoire of many theatres. Modern plays by Soviet, as well as French, Italian, American and other playwrights, are also produced.

Theatrical workers are surrounded with the care and affection of the people and the state. Many talented actors have made a name for themselves and people are rightly proud of them. Among them are Vladimir Trendafilov, Zorka Yordanova, Petya Gerganova, Olga Kircheva, Marta Popova, Irina Tasseva, Margarita Douparinova, Stefan Getsov, Georgi Kaloyanchev, Ivan Kondov, Andrei Chaprazov, Apostol Karamitev, Assen Milanov, Lyubomir Kabakchiev, Slavka Slavova, and Tanya Massalitinova. The outstanding producers Boyan Danovski, Phillip Phillipov, Krustyo Mirsky and Mois Beniesh have done much for the development of the Bulgarian stage.

The rich repertoire of our theatre and its growing public has made it a popular school for the ideological, moral and aesthetic education of the people.

6. Music

The Bulgarian people have always been fond of music. Songs have uplifted their spirits, making them more resilient in sorrow and more relaxed in happiness. Even in the early Middle Ages musical composition in Bulgaria accompanied not only church services and festivals, but had a considerable influence on the development of the music of the Eastern Orthodox Church. In the 13th century Ioan Koukouzel scaled the heights not only of Eastern Orthodox singing, but also of singing in general by introducing new melodies in a broad diapason, with a more dynamic rhythm and structural clarity imbued with secular elements and emotion.

In the dark years of Ottoman domination, folk music was an inexhaustible source; the people never stopped singing. But the songs they sang were mainly sad, full of inconsolable grief for lost children and a longing for freedom.

However, this music had an original melodiousness and expressiveness. A specific and inimitable variety of metre and rhythm is to be seen in Bulgarian tunes, for in this music one often finds beats of $5/8$, $7/8$, $9/8$, $10/8$, $11/8$, $12/8$. Here too our people have made their contribution. Their creative efforts would have advanced much further had they not lived in bondage and later in fascist obscurantism.



Ioan Koukouzel

In the conditions of socialism the endeavour of the musically-gifted people to develop and improve their talent has become a state policy.

What do the facts show? Prior to the Second World War there was only one state opera in Bulgaria and only one symphony orchestra. Today small Bulgaria has five opera companies — in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Roussé and Stara Zagora, one Musical Comedy Theatre in Sofia, three semi-amateur operas in Bourgas, Sliven and Vratsa, and 17 state symphony orchestras in the largest district towns. Opera and musical comedy performances are attended by over 800,000 persons every year, while the concerts of the symphony orchestras are attended by some 200,000 persons.

That is why it is no accident that the past 25 years of free life and creative daring have brought great popularity to Bulgarian music abroad.

Our country is justifiably proud of such outstanding opera singers, well-known in the musical world, as Nikolai Ghiaurov, Nikola Nikolov, Nikola Gyuzelev who have become the favourites not only of Sofia audiences, but of those of Moscow and Leningrad, the Milan Scala, the Paris Grand Opera, the Metropolitan Opera of New York and the Vienna Opera, of singers such as Lyubomir Bodourov, Yulia Wiener, Nadya Afeyan, Liliana Bareva, Assen Selimski, Raina Kabaivanska and many

more. Well-known are also the musicians of the Avramov Quartet, the violinists Emil Kamilarov (winner of the Paganini Prize), Dina Schneidermann, Georgi Badev, Nikolai Evrov, Milena Mollova and others.

Numerous are the gold and silver medals, the honorary mentions and other awards received by Bulgarian musical ensembles and individual performers, at international contests and world festivals.

The socialist revolution has not only released the potential forces of Bulgarian musicians and made music accessible to the widest strata of the population, but has also provided ample opportunities for our talented composers.

Never before have opera and musical comedy in Bulgaria had such a big choice of repertoire of works written by modern Bulgarian composers as they have today. Lyubomir Pipkov, Parashkev Hadjiev, Marin Goleminov, Vesselin Stoyanov, Konstantin Iliev, Victor Raichev, and Assen Karastoyanov are the most distinguished contemporary Bulgarian composers, well-known for their operatic works.

Scores of contemporary Bulgarian symphonic works, cantatas and oratorios are regularly performed on the concert stages. Old and well-established masters, such as Petko Stainov and Pancho Vladigerov work in this sphere, as well as many talented people of several generations.

The song as a genre has not lagged behind either, as it most vividly reflects the democratic trends of present-day musical culture. Among the most popular composers of mass songs are Georgi Dimitrov, Philip Koutev, Todor Popov, Parashkev Hadjiev, Assen Karastoyanov and Alexander Raichev.

The entire creative work of Bulgarian composers is distinguished, above all, by its realism and national character, by its new ideas and fresh melodiousness. The socially significant content of contemporary Bulgarian music is in harmony with the progressive changes which have taken place in the life of our country and people.

Four international contests for young opera singers have been held in Bulgaria and will continue to take place here, so as to enhance the development of world musical culture.

7. Cinema Art

The cinema is the youngest art in Bulgaria with the greatest mass appeal. It is true that 50 years ago attempts were made to produce Bulgarian films, but the pioneers in this field received neither material nor moral support from the state. Left in the hands of a handful of enthusiasts who lacked funds, Bul-

garian film-making could not develop successfully; the limited number of cinema halls were owned by businessmen.

The situation changed rapidly after the victory of the revolution. A state film industry was created and the cinema became accessible to all. The production and distribution of films as well as all the cinemas in the country are now the property of the state which, in the exercise of its organizational, economic, cultural and educational functions, is interested in stimulating the intellectual growth of the people. Films have been produced in Bulgaria, which are in no way inferior to many fine films made abroad.

In the years of people's rule over 120 feature films have been produced, together with 1,864 short films and 1,167 newsreels. Annual production now includes some 12 feature films, 169 popular science films, documentaries and cartoon films, and 65 newsreels.

The Bulgarian film industry now has a film centre of its own, well-trained directors and technical cadres and talented film stars, and enjoys the assistance of Bulgarian script-writers. All this has made possible the creation of highly artistic films, some of which are devoted to the people's heroic struggles, such as *Kalin the Eagle*, *Under the Yoke*, *Septembrists*, *The Crew of the s/s Nadezhda*, *Alarm*, *Commander of the Detachment*, *A Song of Man*, *One Quiet Evening*, *A Home on the Crossroads*, *Tobacco*, *We Were Young*, *Captured Squadron*, *The First Lesson*, *The Eighth* and the television series *At Every Kilometre*. Other films are devoted to the conflicts and stirring events of our own times (*Dawn Over the Homeland*, *Men of Dimitrograd*, *Troubled Road*, *The Last Supper of the Seven*, *The Inspector and the Night*). The pride of the Bulgarian film industry are *The Heroes of Shipka*, *The Lesson of History*, *On the Eve*, *The First Courier*, produced with the assistance of the Soviet Cinematography.

Bulgarian films have won international recognition. Today they are shown in more than 70 countries in the world. The films *Kalin the Eagle*, *Alarm*, *We Were Young*, *The Heroes of Stars*, *Sun and Shadow*, *The Peach Thief*, *Knight Without Armour*, *The Side-Track*, as well as many documentaries, animated and popular-science films have won international prizes.

The number of cinema theatres has grown by leaps and bounds. From 155 in 1939 they increased to 3,104 in 1969. What is more, 88 per cent of them are in the villages where formerly there were only 32 cinemas. The number of spectators skyrocketed from 15 million in 1944 to over 110.2 million in 1969. This means that every adult in Bulgaria goes to the cinema at least twice a month.

In addition to Bulgarian and Soviet films and the films of

the other socialist countries, Bulgarian cinema-goers see the best progressive films of Italy, France, Great Britain and other countries.

8. Art

The earliest works of art were created here by the ancient Thracians, Greeks, Romans and Byzantines. These peoples left behind valuable monuments which have survived to our day. Among them are the Kazanluk Tomb, the tomb near Mezek and the Gold Treasure of Panagyurishtë, all three dating back to the 4th century B. C., the Silistra Tomb built in the 4th century A. D., the Church of St. George of the 3rd and 4th century, and the Church of St. Sophia in Sofia of about the same date, which gave its name to the Bulgarian capital. The excavated cities of Nicopolis ad Istrum (2nd to 4th century), Oescus (1st to 4th century) and Abritus (1st to 4th century) belong to the period of Roman domination. These wonderful monuments have strongly influenced local art traditions, which later formed the foundations of Bulgarian art.

The development of Bulgarian art, monumental architecture and wood-carving in the early Middle Ages bears the features of the art of the Proto-Bulgarians and the Slavs. The rich traditions which the Proto-Bulgarians established in the goldsmith's art and in decorative and funeral sculpture, and the Slav examples of ornamental and decorative art inspire our artists to this day.

Although the first Bulgarian monuments showed a certain grimness and austerity, later their line and spirit mellowed under the impact of the then existing civilizations. Thus, the Bulgarians enriched their ideas in art, improved their aesthetic sense and artistic skill, and created original monuments of art and architecture.

Monumental palaces, richly decorated with sculptured figures, mural paintings, coloured marble decorations and ceramic mosaics, designs of plant origin and geometric figures were created at Pliska and Preslav, the capitals of the First Bulgarian Kingdom (7th-10th century). The unique icon of St. Theodor of Patleina near Preslav, made of coloured faience in the 10th century, is a veritable masterpiece of early Bulgarian art, which has been preserved to our day. Another masterpiece of that period is the monumental relief carved into the rock face, known as the Horseman of Madara. The gold treasure found near Nagy Senkt Miklos in Hungary, the work of skilful hands, also belongs to that period.

The ossuary at the Bachkovo Monastery (11th to 12th century), the churches at the villages of Berendé (13th century) and Kalotino, the frescos in a rock chapel near the village of Ivanovo, Roussé district (14th century), and many more are decorated with remarkable murals. To this day the grim, earthly and masterful figures painted in yellows and browns in the chapel of the Zemen Monastery (14th century), enchant one with their beauty. But the most impressive and original monument of mediaeval Bulgarian art is the Boyana Church near Sofia with its wonderful murals. Painted in 1259 by a master of the Turnovo School of Art, the murals of the Boyana Church are the forerunners of the humanistic spirit of the great art of the Italian Renaissance.

The miniatures of *The Manases Chronicle* (a Bulgarian illustrated translation of 1344-45, now in the Vatican) are also the work of the Turnovo School of Art. They contain pictures born of the imagination of the Bulgarian artist who produced them, and are connected with the history of the Bulgarian people. Other miniatures of this period are those in the Gospels of Tsar Ivan Alexander, dating back to 1356, painted in Turnovo and now in the British Museum. Miniatures developed in Bulgaria, with their own characteristic features and style, known to science by the name of the Bulgarian Teratological Style, which spread to Rumania, Russia and other countries, and survived there for a long time.

Woodcarving, jewel making, and the arts and crafts also developed during the general advance of the period. Woodcarving in particular has left fine examples in the intricate interlaced designs, dotted with human and animal figures, on the doors of the Church of St. Nicholas in Ochrid, on the doors of Hrelyu's Chapel in the Rila Monastery, and elsewhere.

The artistic genius of the Bulgarian people would have taken them far, had their brush, chisel and hammer not been bound by five centuries of Ottoman bondage, which not only cut short the progress of Bulgarian culture, but destroyed and despoiled the masterpieces in the country.

The art of our days begins with the period of the National Revival in the 19th century. It developed under the influence of the same social laws which governed that of literature, and did much for the gradual awakening of national consciousness, until the stage of a nation-wide struggle and rebellion against the foreign oppressors was reached. The names of the pioneers in this sphere are Zahari Zograph (1810-1853), Stanislav Dospevski (1823-1878), Dimiter Dobrovich (1816-1905), Nikolai Pavlovich (1835-1894), Georgi Danchov (1846-1908) and Hristo Tsokev (1847-1883). Many of their mural paintings, portraits,

icons and lithographs are not merely of historical significance, but are also remarkable examples of art.

The democratic character of the work of these pioneers was passed on to the generations of artists after Bulgaria's liberation from Ottoman domination. In the new conditions, genre painting now came to the fore, depicting the people's life, while the simplicity of the art style of the Revival Period gave place to an academic style and impressionism.

The outstanding representatives who finally consolidated the national and realistic principle in Bulgarian painting were Ivan Mrkvicka (1856-1938), Anton Mitov (1862-1930), Ivan Angelov (1864-1924) and Yaroslav Vesin (1860-1915). In certain of their works their democratic realism attains a critical approach to the existing hard and humiliating conditions in which the people lived.

With the development of capitalism in Bulgaria, pictures containing social motifs, which mirrored the fundamental contradiction of the period — that between labour and capital — began to appear ever more frequently. The artists portrayed not merely vivid types, but also expressed in their works the controversies of the inner life of the people, resulting from the deep conflicts in social development and in man's fate. Tseno Todorov, Stefan Ivanov, Nikola Petrov, Nikola Marinov, Elena Karamihailova, Vladimir Dimitrov - the Master, and many others belong to this generation.

Political cartoons appeared and developed extensively in the conditions of increasingly acute class contradictions and party struggles. Alexander Bozhinov is the father of the Bulgarian cartoon. In his work the caricature established itself as an independent genre and later became a political weapon in the work of Iliya Beshkov, Alexander Zhendov, Stoyan Venev and Boris Angeloushev.

During the two Balkan Wars and the First World War bataillism developed as a genre. The pioneers in this field were Yaroslav Vesin and Anton Mitov, later followed by Boris Denev, Alexander Moutafov, Simeon Velkov, Dimiter Gyudjenov and Atanas Mihov.

At the turn of the century Bulgarian sculpture also developed. Boris Schatz, Zheko Spiridonov and Marin Vassilev are the pioneers in this genre, which later attained great heights in the works of Andrei Nikolov, Ivan Lazarov, Marko Markov, Ivan Founov and Lyubomir Dalchev.

Between the First and the Second World Wars, a period filled with the dramatic fury of the class struggle and the more vivid delineation of social forces, several trends made their appearance in our art.

Some artists turned to the beauty of the old legends and developed a style that was markedly Bulgarian in character, others continued the academic traditions, preferring to paint portraits and nudes, and still others poured their talent into the growing revolutionary struggle for freedom and progress.

Even in the darkest period of fascist dictatorship the majority of Bulgarian artists produced works which were close to the people, and did not succumb to the man-hating ideology of fascism and the decadent art fads.

The purifying stream of the socialist revolution, the swift development of our economy and culture, the growing activity of the masses in the last two decades have given a powerful stimulus to Bulgarian art. The galaxy of active revolutionary artists has been reinforced by new and fresh forces, and thousands of canvases have appeared, in which the storm of the revolution, the mighty voices and daring dreams and deeds of our free people can be sensed. Alongside the new, impressive paintings, graphic works and posters by Alexander Zhendov, Stoyan Venev, Iliya Petrov, Iliya Beshkov, Boris Angeloushev, Nenko Balkanski, Vladimir Dimitrov-the Master, Dechko Ouzounov, Peter Petrov, Panayot Panayotov, and Zdravko Alexandrov, fine works by younger artists are also appearing. Most prominent among these are Alexander Poplilov, Marko Behar, Nikola Mirchev, Naiden Petkov, as well as the youngest generation of artists including Svetlin Roussev, Dimiter Kirov, Georgi Boev, Violeta Maslarova, Yoan Kiliyev and the graphic artists Atanas Neykov, Hristo Neykov and Todor Panayotov.

Sculpture attained new heights in the works of Mara Georgieva, Vaska Emanouilova, Ivan Mandov, Vassil Radoslavov and Lyuben Dimitrov. A new generation of sculptors is also coming to the fore: Georgi Apostolov, Sekoul Kroumov, Vladimir Ginovski, Iliya Iliyev, Nikola Terziev and many others. Sculptured statues and monuments, the work of Bulgarian sculptors and architects, now adorn the town and village centres, squares and public parks.

Bulgarian artists work in many genres and styles. However, they all apply the method of socialist realism creatively in their particular field, and serve their people.

9. Architecture

In the very first centuries of its existence the Bulgarian state created its own architecture. This early Bulgarian architecture can be studied from the ruins of the palaces, churches

and public buildings in the mediaeval Bulgarian capitals of Pliska (8th century), Preslav (9th-10th century) and Turnovo (12th-14th century). The ruins of these monuments — stone walls, mosaics, ceramics and architectural fragments — testify to the monumental quality and simplicity of form, as well as to the high achievements of architecture and construction.

Bulgarian architecture and construction developed on the basis of the traditions and experience of the Slavs and the Proto-Bulgarians and under the favourable influence of the ancient Thracian, Greek and Roman architectural traditions which existed in the country. Its development was also influenced by Byzantine architecture. This was an intricate process of creatively using the heritage of other people, in order to shape an original Bulgarian architecture.

Some of the monuments which have come down to us testify to the great advance of architecture and construction in the Middle Ages. Among them are: the Boyana Church (11th century), the Zemen Monastery (12th century), the Bachkovo Monastery (11th century), the Nessebur churches (10th-14th century), Hrelyu's Tower at the Rila Monastery (built in 1335), the Baba Vida Fortress near Vidin, which was probably built in the 13th or 14th century, and Assen's Fortress (11th-13th century), to mention but a few.

In this period architecture and construction developed in the closest connexion with mural painting.

It is a pity that not a single dwelling place has come down to us from this period. However, many houses built in the period of the National Revival have been preserved and they show how Bulgarian architecture advanced despite foreign oppression.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, owing to the rapid development of industry and trade, the flourishing of the arts and crafts and the growing national consciousness of the people, the construction of private houses and public buildings developed on a large scale. The lovely, richly-ornamented two-storey houses built in that period in the towns of Plovdiv, Koprivshtitsa, Tryavna, Veliko Turnovo, Samokov, Melnik and Bansko arouse our admiration to this day.

The most impressive monument encompassing the progressive trends in the development of Bulgarian architecture in the National Revival period is the Rila Monastery, whose main buildings were finally completed in the 19th century. It is still

◀ *The Cyril and Methodius National Library in Sofia*

the most beautiful creation of the Bulgarian constructive, genius.

Kolyo Ficheto, an original talent and self-taught builder, has left striking examples of architecture from the National Revival period. The inn and konak he designed and built in Veliko Turnovo, the Churches of the Holy Trinity in Svishtov, of Sts. Constantine and Helena in Turnovo, the bridge over the Yantra and the Rialto-type bridge in the town of Lovech amaze one by their harmonious composition, daring solutions, exquisite forms and solid construction.

The Bulgarian architecture of the National Revival period, which carried on the traditions of our distant past, has become the foundation on which present-day Bulgarian architecture is developing.

Bulgaria's liberation from Ottoman bondage opened up opportunities for the development of modern Bulgarian architecture. Public, private and co-operative construction developed. Monumental public buildings and churches were erected, the most impressive among which are: the Palace of Justice, the University, the National Theatre, the National Library, the National Bank and the Alexander Nevsky Memorial Church in Sofia, the municipal theatre and the terminal in Varna. The nation's slow economic development under capitalism did not give wide scope to the development of construction and architecture.

It is only under socialism, when the attention was focused on man and his way of life, that the construction of houses, public and administrative buildings and amenities assumed mass proportions. In the last 25 years Bulgaria's housing facilities have been almost entirely renewed, the towns have grown into well-planned modern architectural complexes. New towns, resorts and districts have sprung up from scratch almost overnight.

A new architectural style has come into being in this intensive construction, in which a fine balance has been achieved between functional building techniques and attractive architectural forms which carry on the best Bulgarian traditions. This new style in architecture also finds expression in its perfect unity with the overall town-planning and the natural setting.

The credit for all this goes to Bulgaria's architects. There were few Bulgarian architects in former days and most of them had been trained abroad. Today our architects are numerous — 90 per cent of them are young, talented and energetic people who have received their education in Bulgaria. The seaside resorts of *Drouzhba* (Friendship) and *Zlatni Pyassatsi* (Golden Sands) near Varna, and *Slunchev Bryag* (Sunny Beach) near

Nessebur, unsurpassed in scale, impressiveness and exquisite beauty, are the work of Bulgarian architects. Our architects and civil engineers have won a number of prizes and competitions in various countries in recent years, and have been entrusted with the entire construction and town-planning of Tunis, as well as with the urbanization of a number of towns in Syria, Ghana, Ethiopia and several other countries.

Modern Bulgarian architecture exercises a favourable influence on both the life and the aesthetic education of our people.

10. Cultural Mass Work

Library Clubs

The library clubs which sprang up as original centres of education and culture in the period of our National Revival continue to play an important role in Bulgaria's cultural life. Their number, as well as that of their members, has increased considerably in the years of the people's rule: from 2,610 with a membership of 160,000 in 1939 to 4,518 with more than one million members in 1968.

The library clubs are housed in the most imposing buildings in towns and villages. They have big libraries, spacious reading rooms, cinema halls, lecture rooms and museums. All this made it possible to turn the library clubs into centres of all-round cultural, educational, social and political activity.

Libraries

Libraries which contain a great wealth of literature of all kinds play a big part in popularizing books and enlightening the people.

Besides the state libraries, there are thousands of libraries in the library clubs, the industrial enterprises and the larger department offices. In the last decade the number of libraries has doubled, and the total book stock has more than quintupled. There are 11,050 libraries in Bulgaria today, with a total of 43 million volumes. Over 42 million books are lent out every year.

Sofia's National Library, housed in one of the city's most attractive buildings, is Bulgaria's pride with its one million volumes.

Museums

Situated on the crossroads between Europe and Asia, Bulgaria was once an arena where men crossed swords and where ideas and civilizations clashed. That is why the country is so rich in historical monuments and why so many interesting finds have come to light, to fill the museums and arouse the curiosity of connoisseurs, experts and amateurs from all over the world.

At present there are 145 museums. The National Archaeological Museum, the Ethnographic Museum, the Museum of the Revolutionary Movement in Bulgaria, the Museum of Russo-Bulgarian Comradeship-in-Arms are in Sofia. The best known museums in Plovdiv are the Archaeological and Ethnographical Museums; in Stara Zagora, Bourgas and Varna there are archaeological museums; the Museum in Veliko Turnovo houses exhibits from the Second Bulgarian Kingdom; the Museum in Mihailovgrad is devoted to the first anti-fascist uprising in the world in 1923, while the military and historical museums in Pleven are dedicated to the most dramatic and the most heroic pages of the Russo-Turkish War of Liberation (1877-78).

The museums, which contain the wealth of past centuries, exhibit everything that the earth has harboured after centuries of natural disasters, wars and strife of all kind, concealing them from the eyes of man. They arouse interest and a sense of duty and of responsibility, which have an educative influence.

Amateur Artistic Activities

Amateur artistic activities express the profoundly democratic character of cultural development on a mass scale; they are the bulwark of tradition and a source of new talents in creative and interpretative art.

There are over 13,000 amateur artistic groups in our country — choral, dance and theatrical groups and orchestras with a membership of nearly half a million. Amateur operas stage regular performances in three towns, while in 61 towns there are amateur musical comedy and operetta companies.

The high artistic skill of the majority of amateur groups shows that amateur artistic activities have developed sufficiently fully to practically attain the level of performances of professional groups, and that a high level of artistic interpretative skill is not the monopoly of individual talents, but of the masses. This explains the great successes of a number of Bulgarian amateur groups, which have received very high recognition at international reviews and festivals.

11. Physical Education and Sports

Only a people who are physically fit, strong and energetic can create high cultural and material values. This is precisely why care for physical education and sports in Bulgaria has become a state and nation-wide policy.

A solid material basis has been created for sportsmen. Almost every town and village is engaged in the construction of sports grounds and other sports facilities. The working people have at their disposal over 8,500 volleyball, handball and basketball courts, 600 stadiums with 235 track and field grounds, and 1,400 sports facilities, 2,500 football grounds, 24 sports halls and 933 gymnasia, 18 concrete cycling tracks, 251 outdoor and 11 indoor swimming pools.

These data are not so much propaganda but the basis on which the physical education movement has been organized on a mass scale. The great army of organized sportsmen and women in Bulgaria numbers more than a million and a half. There are three categories in the system of Bulgarian physical education and sports. This means that a given sportsman must attain certain results in the different sports events. So far more than 1,5 million people have obtained sports classifications, 1,500 are Masters of Sports and more than 500 are Honoured Masters of Sports.

It is therefore not surprising that Bulgarian sportsmen and women have been so successful in international sport events in the last few years. Five Bulgarians are world champions (in wrestling), one has established a world record (in shooting), five are Olympic champions (in wrestling) and one is a European champion (in boxing). The Bulgarian wrestlers were first at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964, and won second place, two gold, three silver and one bronze medals at the Mexico Olympics in 1969. The Bulgarian men's volleyball team won the 1968 Balkan Volleyball Championship and the women's team ranked second. The same year the archers won second place in the European Championship and four of them were classified among the top six. In 1967 the women's eurhythmic team won third place in the world, and Maria Gigova won the world championship in the performance with the ring. The women's volleyball team of the Levski Sports Club won the 1964 European championship, the track and field team won the Balkan athletic Championship in 1963, and the Bulgarian football team copped bronze Olympic medals in Melbourne and silver medals in Mexico in 1968. The success of our sportsmen at the 1968 Mexico Olympics was an impressive manifestation of the progress of Bulgarian sports. They scored 66.83 points and ranked 15th in a field in-

cluding 112 nations with a total of 6,096 participants. As many as 37 Bulgarian sportsmen ranked among the top six in different sports events.

In 1934 the Bulgarian chess players wound up last at the World Championship in Munich. But that was in prewar days! In the last ten years the Bulgarian team has regularly been placed among the first six in the matches for the world championships, and third at the Lugano Olympics in 1968.

Physical education and sports in Bulgaria have become an important factor in the harmonious development of our people's health, strength and beauty. They help also their all-round and cultural advancement.

* * *

Bulgaria's successes in the sphere of art and culture have brilliantly confirmed the formulation made in the past by the immortal Georgi Dimitrov, who stated that there are no big and small nations in the sphere of culture. There is room for the contribution of all nations to the world treasure-store of art and culture. The Bulgarian people's contribution is not small, and it keeps on growing, thanks to their lofty aspirations, and their successful efforts to blend ideas with practical experience, to bring poetry and art close to the people, to link work with life, and make man's will to create, a song.

For where there is will, there is a way; mountains can be moved and great heights can be scaled.

VII. Hiking, Tourism and Resorts

Hiking is popular in Bulgaria, as the natural beauty of our country has always attracted nature lovers. Lately tourism, both national and international, has also developed with the building of excellent facilities. At present more than 1,000,000 Bulgarians are active hikers who take part in events organized by the Bulgarian Hikers' Union, which means that every tenth person in our country is a hiker.

Great successes were achieved in the field of international tourism in 1969. The fact that foreigners may enter Bulgaria without any preliminary formalities has greatly increased the flow of tourists from abroad. Bulgaria leads Europe as far as the annual increase in the number of tourists is concerned.

Over the last ten years, tourism and resort-building in Bulgaria has developed to such an extent that foreign tourists come all the year round. The most important factor is that our country is rich in resources, such as a large number of spas with highly curative waters, seaside resorts with vast beaches and modern hotels, restaurants and night spots, beautiful mountain resorts and excellent hunting facilities.

Bulgaria has inherited the culture of the ancient Thracians who inhabited the territory between the Danube, the Black Sea and the Rhodope Mountains, of the Greeks who lived in colonies on the Black Sea coast, of the Romans and the Byzantines.

Among the most characteristic relics of Thracian history are the burial mounds, which reflected the art, culture and way of life of ancient Thrace. The dozens of burial mounds which have been discovered enthrall one with their monumental quality. One of the finest examples is the one at Mezek, which dates from the 4th century B.C.

The Kazanluk tomb is well worth a visit; it was most probably built around 310 B.C. The murals in it are in an excellent state of preservation, delighting visitors with their high degree of artistic skill and the intelligent conceptions of the unknown artist who depicted the difference between life and death. The murals in the Kazanluk Tomb are the only intact example of ancient Greek painting which has survived in Thrace. There are no such murals in Greece or in any of the other Balkan countries.

A Thracian princess is buried in the Vratsa tomb, which was excavated a few years ago. Experts found there wonderful examples of the goldsmith's craft — a gold crown, earrings in the form of winged sphinxes, a knee-piece and a woman's mask.

There is also a great deal to be learnt about the ancient history of our lands from a visit to the tomb at Silistra, on the Danube (4th century B.C.), and to the mausoleum and burial-ground near Pomorié, which was discovered in 1888. The latter shows in great detail the renaissance of old Thracian burial ritual in a Roman mausoleum. The Pomorié burial ground has a long, vaulted corridor 22 m long with two antechambers and a spacious round chamber beneath the burial mound.

Who would not be enthralled by the beauty and elegance of the Vulchitrun gold treasure, which weighs a total of 12.5 kg, and has lain beneath the ground for more than 3,000 years? This is exhibited in the Sofia Archaeological Museum. Then there is the Panagyurishtë treasure (6 kg), which can be seen in the Plovdiv Archaeological Museum, and the Varna treasure, which dates from the early Byzantine period.

On the Black Sea coast there are settlements which date from Thracian, Greek and Roman times, such as Kavarna, 5th century B.C. (ancient names Bizoné and Karvouna), Balchik (Krunoi and Dionysopolis), Varna (Odessos, 4th century B.C.), Obzor (Heliopolis), Nessebur (Menabria and Mesembria), Pomorié (Anchialus, 5th century B.C.), Sozopol (Apollonia, 7th century B.C.) and Ahtopol (Agathopolis).

There are unique examples of the ancient culture and history of these lands to be found in our Thracian and Roman cities, such as Sofia (Serdica and Sredets), Stara Zagora (Berrhoé), Kyustendil (Pautalia), Hissar, Plovdiv (Pulpudava, Philippopolis and Trimontium), Razgrad (Abritus), Pleven (Storgozia), Roussé (Sexagita Prista), Silistra (Dorostorum), Vidin (Bonnonia) and Svishtov (Novae).

The many surviving examples of the cultural heritage of our Medieval and National Revival periods will be of great interest to visitors. The remains of the capitals of the First Bulgarian State, Pliska and Preslav, can be seen in North-east Bulgaria. Nearby is the Madara Fortress, close to which is the

famous cliff relief of the Madara Horseman. It is a rock-hewn monument unique of its kind in Europe. The large number of ruined churches in Pliska bear witness to the magnificent scale of church-building that went on in the reign of Prince Boris I. It is believed that at that time, the Great Basilica at Pliska was one of the largest churches in the Balkans. The famous Round Church at Preslav, the second capital, was noted for the great variety of its architectural forms, and the richness of its colouring and sculptural decoration. The Rila Monastery, which lies in the beautiful valley of the River Rilska in the Rila Mountains is an excellent example of our mediaeval civilization. The mausoleum church at the Bachkovo Monastery, which lies about 11 km to the south of Assenovgrad in the Rhodope Mountains is of great interest to visitors. The two-storeyed Church of the Holy Virgin Mary of Petrich is still intact, and can be seen in Assenovgrad.

In Veliko Turnovo, the capital of the Second Bulgarian State, there are two picturesque hills, Tsarevets and Trapezitsa, where the remains of churches and palaces can be seen. The best-known of these are the Church of St Dimiter (1185), the Church of the Forty Martyrs (1230), and the Church of St Peter and St Paul which dates from the 14th century.

The 13th century Boyana Church near Sofia is famous for its murals which are typical of the Turnovo school of painting. The Zemen Monastery, near Radomir, also has interesting murals. A large number of churches were built in Nessebur in the 13th and 14th centuries, the most famous of which are the Church of the Archangel Michael, St. Ivan Aliturgetos (the Unenlightened), and the Pantocrator (the Almighty). The crypt of the Alexander Nevsky Memorial Church in Sofia houses an excellent collection of medieval icons: these bear eloquent witness to the high level of development of religious painting at that time. In the archaeological and ethnographical museums in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Veliko Turnovo, Karlovo, Bourgas, Nessebur and Vratsa, there are interesting examples of Bulgarian coins, gold ornaments and jewellery, ceramics, wood-carving, weaving, embroidery and poker work. The best examples of Bulgarian National Revival period architecture can be seen at Tryavna, Kotel, Karlovo, Veliko Turnovo, Arbanassi, Zhelevna, Bansko, Berkovitsa, Gabrovo, Dryanovo, Plovdiv, Nessebur, Sozopol, Pomorié and Shiroka Luka.

The number of tourists to visit Bulgaria was particularly large in 1969, when our people celebrated the 25th anniversary of the socialist revolution; 2,131,352 foreign citizens spent their holidays in Bulgaria; 1,117, 593 were from the socialist countries, and 1,013, 759 from other countries. A large amount

of hotel-building was carried out to meet the demand. At the beginning of 1970 the Balkantourist Travel Service Organization had 250 hotels and over 50,000 beds at its disposal. By the end of this year, the number of beds will have increased by more than 3,000. There is accommodation for more than 100,000 people on camping sites, and about 40,000 beds in private flats on the Black Sea coast and in the rest of the country.

The following statistics are the best evidence of the growth in the number of foreign tourists to visit Bulgaria over the last ten years:

1960	200,602
1965	1,083,935
1969	2,131,352

Our people, who have a reputation for hospitality, take great care to ensure that guests are comfortably accommodated in hotels and camping sites, and events are organized which will make their stay in Bulgaria more varied and interesting.

1. The Black Sea Resorts

Bulgaria has a large number of excellent resorts on its Black Sea coast. To the north of the legendary Cape Kaliakra, in the Taouk Liman (Bay of Birds), is the Roussalka resort, which consists of 325 bungalows with all modern conveniences. They have a small entrance hall, bedroom, bathroom and W.C. and each one has a separate entrance. The interesting restaurant which stands on the clifftop accommodates 800, has several terraces, a tower and a bar. It is mostly tourists from France, Belgium and Switzerland who spend their holidays at this resort.

The new Albena resort is situated between Balchik and the world-famous resort, Zlatni Pyassatsi. It stands at the mouth of the River Batovska, and its beach is 5 km long, with fine, clean sand. The temperature of the water in summer is between 21 and 22°C. The coastal winds keep the climate pleasantly warm, without being over-hot. The slope of the beach is gradual, which makes bathing safe. Several multi-storeyed hotels in step formation have been built, seven small hotels and 350 wooden double-bedded bungalows. This resort has more than 2,000 beds at its disposal. There are restaurants and bars attached to the hotels, and the resort also has shops and pavilions and a post office. There is a mineral water spring nearby which has a most beneficial effect on rheumatism.

The well known resorts of Zlatni Pyassatsi and Drouzhba are to the north of Varna, the largest town on the Black Sea coast. As far as their comfort and natural beauty are concerned, these resorts rival Biarritz, Palma de Mallorca and the Riviera. Eighty-five hotels with over 17,000 beds, and 120 restaurants seating more than 25,000 have been built. These hotels are open all the year round. The International Hotel has 367 beds, a restaurant, swimming pool, conference halls, a cinema and garden. The Ambassador Hotel has 235 beds, a pastry-shop and a traditional-style Bulgarian inn, in which vintage wines and interesting dishes are served. The Riviera Hotel is also a hydrotherapy establishment. Visitors to these resorts are offered facilities for badminton, miniature-golf, volleyball, basketball and water-sports. There is a large number of bars and night spots which cater for all tastes — from the traditional to the modern, such as the Caney, the Karakachanski Stan, Gorski Kut, Lovna Sreshta, Tsiganski Tabor, Kosharata, Vodenitsata, Trifon Zarezan, Koukerité and Manastirska Izba. There is also a wide variety of entertainments, such as reviews, concerts, exhibitions and excursions to other parts of Bulgaria and to foreign countries.

The Slunchev Bryag resort is to the south of Cape Eminé, the easternmost point of the Balkan Range, and very near to the ancient town of Nessebur. The excellent facilities it offers attract large numbers of foreign tourists. The sea is warm, the sand fine and clean and the climate temperate; there is a wide variety of entertainments. In 1969, the tenth anniversary of the building of the Slunchev Bryag resort was celebrated. It is situated on a mine kilometre-long, horseshoe-shaped stretch of silky sand amid high sand-dunes and shrubberies. There are 87 hotels and hundreds of bungalows, with 18,000 beds. Hotels Koral and Diamant are open all the year round. There is a total of 110 restaurants, bars and night spots, with more than 23,000 seats. Visitors will have the opportunity of hearing pop singers and jazz orchestras from all over the world in such establishments as the Mehanata, Chouchoura, Buchvata, Ribarskata Hizha, Piratskiyat Korab and Vyaturnata Melnitsa. There are restaurants with a specialized cuisine — Russian, English, Swedish and French. Visitors with children will find this resort especially suitable; modern kindergartens, playground and paddling pools are provided, and all hotels serve special food for children. There are qualified medical staff to take care of them, and teachers who speak foreign languages to supervise their leisure-time activities.

Bulgaria's southern Black Sea coast has a charm all of its own; it begins with Bourgas and ends with the River Rezovska,

which marks the border with Turkey. Sozopol, Kavatsité, Alepou, Arkoutino, Perla, Primorsko, Keeten, Michurin and Ahtopol attract thousands of tourists every year. A new resort will be built at the mouth of the beautiful River Ropotamo in the near future; it will have accommodation for 50,000 in its hotels, camping sites, motels and bungalows; the architecture will blend in with the natural beauty of the scenery.

2. Spas

Bulgaria is one of the few countries in the world to be so richly endowed with hot mineral springs; there are more than 500 hot springs with highly curative properties. Most of them are thermal with temperatures ranging from 37° to 100°C. The water is slightly mineralized, and this makes it highly active biologically.

The curative powers of these springs were known over 3,000 years ago to the ancient Thracians, Greeks and Romans, who at one time inhabited these lands. Flourishing settlements sprung up near these miraculous springs, and their reputation spread all over the Roman Empire, as far as the Aegean Islands, Asia Minor and Egypt.

These springs are mainly to be found in the southern part of the country, on the slopes of the Rila Mountains, the Rhodopes, Pirin, on the Black Sea coast and in the Rose Valley. Their waters contain solutions of various gases such as hydrogen sulphide and carbon dioxide, as well as iodine, bromine, iron and many micro-elements, such as manganese, zinc, cobalt and nickel, and are highly curative. Mineral water, combined with other measures, such as active rest and sleep, fruit cure, grape cure, and clean air, is one of the main methods of curing chronic complaints. Some waters, such as that at Hissar, Gorna Banya, Mihalkovo and Merichleri are useful to drink on the spot or bottled.

Bulgaria has over 60 hydrotherapy establishments, which are situated in areas with differing climatic conditions — temperate-continental, Mediterranean, sea and mountain. There are well equipped hydrotherapy establishments staffed by specialists. Many different methods of cure are used — baths, pools, underwater massage, douche, underwater gymnastics, drinking the water, with additional measures such as physiotherapy, remedial gym, medicinal therapy and special diets.

The most famous spas are Hissar, Kyustendil, Bankya, Momin Prohod, Narechen, Velingrad, Pavel Banya, Vurshets, Sliven, Bourgas and Sofia, including Ovcha Koupel, Gorna Banya, Knyazhevo and Pancharevo, all in its immediate environs.

3. High Mountain Resorts

The climate in Bulgaria's mountainous regions offers excellent conditions for rest; it is temperate, because it is influenced by the high cliff-like massifs and the mixed forests of deciduous trees and conifers. This is the reason why a chain of holiday houses, hotels, chalets and winter sports bases has been built over the last 20 years of people's power.

The winter sports season opens in December every year. It will be useful for foreign tourists to know something about the climate and biological significance of Bulgaria's mountain resorts.

The extent of the climatic zone in the mountains is between 1,000 and 1,800 m above sea level. The climate at these heights has the most intensive solar radiation with a high ultra-violet ray content. Drops in temperature are not great because of the low wind velocity — 1.5 per second. The temperature in wintertime is stable, which makes it easier for the body to adapt itself to the environment. Average January temperatures are from — 2.5 to — 7°C at medium altitude, and from — 6 to — 11°C in the higher parts of the mountains.

The large amount of snowfall and its depth up to one and a half metres provides excellent facilities for winter sports. The snow remains for more than four months, and the active winter sports season begins early in December and ends in the middle of April.

The mountain resorts have all modern conveniences and are easily reached by car. The best known resorts in the Rila Mountains are Borovets, Govedarts, Malyovitsa, Kostenets and the Rila Monastery. The Pirin Mountains boast of the Vihren — Bunderitsa Complex, and the Rhodopes of Pamporovo, Batak, Yundola, Velingrad and Peshtera. In the Balkan Range are Berkovitsa and Mt Kom, Bekléméto, and on Vitosh, near Sofia, there are dozens of holiday houses and chalets: these include Shtastlivetsa Complex in the Aleko region, Zlatni Mostové and Ofeliité. These resorts have more than 8,000 beds. There are passenger and ski-lifts to aid visitors in moving from one part of the mountain to the other.

For those who enjoy summer and winter excursions, there are about 200 mountain chalets with over 10,000 beds. There is a total of 320 chalets and hotels with over 25,000 beds in our mountains.

4. Motoring

The number of motorists who come to Bulgaria under the auspices of the Bulgarian Touring Club and the Committee for Tourism is very large. A large number of individual tourists come from Austria, Poland, the Federal German Republic, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Switzerland and Italy. Wide asphalt roads have been built, and there are filling stations at every 20—25 km. There are camping sites or motels, inns, restaurants and shops near the sites of cultural and historical interest, picnic, hunting and fishing spots as well as facilities for swimming and rowing.

Bulgaria has more than 160 camping sites accommodating over 100,000. These sites are provided with the necessary comforts and services, and are in the de luxe, 1st, 2nd and 3rd class. The prices are minimal, ranging from 0.15 to 0.30 dollars per person per night, according to the class. Parking of car or caravan costs the same, and for parking of coaches in all classes of camping-sites the charge is 1.5 dollars. Children under the age of seven may stay free of charge, and those between seven and 12 years are entitled to a 50 per cent reduction.

Border-crossing points are open 24 hours per day, and this greatly aids visitors in carrying out the programme they have planned. The crossing-points on the Bulgarian-Yugoslav border are: Kalotino, connecting Dimitrovgrad with the village of Kalotino; Gyueshevo, connecting Kriva Palanka and Kyustendil; Zlatarevo, connecting Stroumitsa and Petrich, Lissichkovo, connecting Delchevo and Blagoevgrad; Vrushka Chouka, connecting Zaichar and Koula. The crossing points on the Bulgarian-Rumanian border are: Roussé, which is connected by bridge with Gyurgevo; Kardam and Durankulak, which connects Tolbukhin and Varna with the Romanian Black Sea resorts. On the Bulgarian-Greek border, Koulata connects Petrich with Valovitsa, and on the Bulgarian-Turkish border, Kapitan Andreevo connects Svilengrad with Edirné.

A new crossing-point near Malko Turnovo, in the Strandja Mountains which connects Bulgaria with Turkey was opened recently. Holidaymakers from the Black Sea resorts will have the opportunity of travelling to Turkey by way of the new road via Malko Turnovo. This makes the distance to Istanbul 300 km shorter than via the Svilengrad road.

Balkantourist and the Bulgarian Touring Club have taken many steps to make travelling in Bulgaria easier for foreign tourists: at border points, they may buy coupons for petrol with a 12 per cent reduction against convertible foreign currency, when they book in at hotels (if they are to have full board, and will be staying more than 10 days), they receive between 50 and 100 litres of free petrol; they may also hire cars with or without driver for convertible currency paid in advance.

5. Tourism for Young People

Bulgaria, represented by the Bulgarian Hikers' Union, is a member of the International Federation of Youth Hostels. The Hikers' Union has built 23 hostels and chalets to satisfy their needs.

The Orbita Youth Tourism Bureau, which is administered by the Central Committee of the Komsomol, has done a great deal to aid the rapid development of youth tourism. It corresponds with 460 similar organizations from 45 different countries in Europe, America, Africa and Australia.

The growth of tourism for young people has taken place mainly in three directions; the reception of young foreign tourists for holidays and excursions in Bulgaria the organization of suitable routes and excursions to acquaint them with Bulgaria, and the organization of young Bulgarians into groups for visits to foreign countries.

A wide variety of measures are taken to make sure that visitors will find their stay in Bulgaria pleasant and interesting; there are visits to places of historical interest and natural beauty spots, and plentiful information about the distant and more recent history of our people, the historical development of the country, the social position of young people, their advantages and political rights.

The most famous Orbita resort is the International Youth Camp at Primorsko, on the Black Sea coast, about 45 km south of Bourgas. It was built in 1959, and has a capacity of about 3,000 beds. Thousands of young people spend their holidays here every year. In 1969, their number was 23,243, and in 1970, more than 24,000 are expected.

6. Co-operative Tourism

The Cooptourist Travel Agency, which is attached to the Central Co-operative Union, was created early in 1969. This agency is engaged in the development of tourism among mem-

bers of co-operative movements in various countries. At the moment, it has several camping sites and motels and a large number of restaurants. Cooptourist has established business relations with more than 15 co-operative tourist organizations in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, France and Belgium, and other countries. It is a full member of the International Federation for Social Tourism.

Bulgaria has also been a member of UIOOT for several years.

* * *

The Bulgarian government is devoting a great deal of attention for the further development of tourism and the resorts.

The International Hotel at the Zlatni Pyassatsi (Golden Sands) sea-side resort, one of the many beautiful resort complexes on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast ▲

F o r t h e T o u r i s t s

Balkantourist

Sofia, 1 Lenin Square, Tel. 87-75-74. Telex — 538

Balkantourist is Bulgaria's sole tourist organization and maintains relations with foreign tourist firms and agencies.

Balkantourist:

— organizes sightseeing tours of Bulgaria along various routes;

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— books train and plane tickets for Bulgaria and abroad;

— books tickets for theatres, cinemas, concerts, sports contests, and reserves places at restaurants, bars and so on;

— organizes business meetings;

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— supplies tourist guides.

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Balkantourist has agencies in a number of countries, viz:

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Via A. Albricci 7,
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S t o c k h o l m C,
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B E L G I Q U E
Tel. 18-54-04

BULGARIAN TOURIST OFFICE

50 East 42nd Street, Suite 1501,
New York N. Y. 10017,
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BULGARIAN TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

K o p e n h a g e n,
Frederikberggade 3,

D A N E M A R K

Tel. 12-35-10

OFFIZIELLE BULGARISCHE VERKEHRSBÜRO

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 Balkantourist (with restaurant)
- D r o u z h b a**
 Chaika (with bar) — 6-13-31
- Z l a t n i P y a s s a t s i**
 Rodina
 Astoria (with restaurant and bar) — 6-52-71
- S l u n c h e v B r y a g**
 Globus (with restaurant and bar) — 286
 Pirin (with bar)
 Vitosha (with bar)

Bulgarian Automobile Touring Club

Sofia, 3 Lenin Square — 87-01-13

The Bulgarian Automobile Touring Club (BATC) is affiliated to the International Tourist Union (AIT) in Geneva and to the International Automobile Federation (FIA) in Paris. Members of foreign automobile touring clubs can obtain from BATC any information pertaining to tourism, driving and au-

tomobile rallies in Bulgaria. They are entitled to the same privileges as the members of the Bulgarian Touring Club. BATC acknowledges letters of credit issued by foreign automobile touring clubs, affiliated to AIT. It renders assistance in case of car damages and affords juridical consultations. In case of car damage or accident, contact the Bulstrad State Insurance Society, tel. 88-31-41.

Tourist Camps

The number of tourist camps in Bulgaria is steadily growing and is now well over 50. They are to be found along the country's highways, up in the mountains and on the Black Sea coast. The best among them are: On the **Black Sea coast** — Golden Sands, International Journalists' House, Aladja, Drouzhba, Kamchiya, Sunny Beach, Emona, Pomoriyé, Kavatsité, Arkoutino, Ropotamo, Stamopolo and Kiten. On the **Sofia-Istanbul highway**: Isker, Lebed, Schturkelovo Gnezdo, Belovo, Maritsa, Kemera. On the **Sofia-Veliko Turnovo-Varna highway**: Boaza, Bogatovo, Kailuka, Zlatna Panega, Turgovishtki Bani and Madara. On the **Sofia-Vratsa-Vidin road**: Lukatnik, Petrohan and Belogradchik. Up in the **mountains**: Malyovitsa (Rila), Vada, Bunderitsa (Pirin), Zdravets (Rhodopes), Purseshebitsa (Vratsa), Mount Sloletov (Balkan Range).

Points of Entry

Coming from Yugoslavia: by car — Kalotino, Gyueshevo-Vrushka Chouka, Logodash and Zlatarevo. By train — Dragoman on the railway lines London — Paris — Trieste — Belgrade — Sofia — Istanbul; and Warsaw — Budapest — Belgrade — Sofia — Plovdiv.

Coming from Rumania: by car — Roussé and Kardam. By train — Roussé on the Moscow — Kiev — Bucharest — Roussé — Sofia railway line.

Coming from Turkey: by car — Kapitan Andreevo. By train — Svilengrad on the Istanbul — Sofia — Belgrade — Trieste — Paris — London railway line.

Coming from Greece: by train and by car — Koulata.

By air: Sofia, Varna and Bourgas.

By sea — Varna and Bourgas.

Aircraft of the following companies stop at Sofia airport: Balkan (Bulgaria), Aeroflot (USSR), AUA (Austria), KLM (Holand), LOT (Poland), INTERFLUG (GDR), MALEV (Hungary), TAROM (Rumania), CSA (Czechoslovakia), plus other West European companies in summer only.

Postal Rates

Of course, foreigners staying in Bulgaria, whether they are here on holiday or for business purposes, will want to send letters to their own countries. In order to make things easier for them, Bulgarian postal letter rates for foreign countries are set out below.

Letters sent by *ordinary post* up to 20 grams in weight cost 13 stotinki. Each additional 20 grams costs 8 stotinki.

Registered letters up to 20 grams in weight cost 28 stotinki.

Airmail letters up to 20 grams in weight, in addition to the usual price of 13 st., cost as follows:

1. Europe

Hungary	0.06 lev
Rumania	0.06 lev
Turkey	0.06 lev
Yugoslavia	0.06 lev
Albania	0.10 lev
Poland	0.10 lev
Czechoslovakia	0.10 lev
USSR (Europe)	0.10 lev
Other European countries	0.10 lev

2. Asia

Cyprus	0.12 lev
Iran	0.12 lev
Iraq	0.12 lev
Jordan	0.12 lev
Lebanon	0.12 lev
Syria	0.12 lev
USSR (Asia)	0.16 lev
Yemen	0.12 lev
Aden	0.12 lev

3. Africa

Algeria	0.08 lev
Ethiopia	0.14 lev
Libya	0.08 lev
Morocco	0.08 lev
Egypt	0.12 lev
Sudan	0.12 lev
Tunisia	0.08 lev

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